Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-209
Monday
30 October 1995

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FBIS-SOV-95-209 *30 October 1995*

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Key Developments

Electoral Commission Refuses To Register Yabloko

LD2910160395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Oct 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just heard from the Central Electoral Commission the sensational news that the Yabloko bloc has been refused registration of its federal candidates' list. With the details, here is Lana Gorbunova at the Central Electoral Commission.

[Gorbunova] It looks as if the Yabloko bloc, one of the frontrunners in the coming Duma elections, is out of the race. The Central Electoral Commission, headed by Nikolay Ryabov, has refused to register the bloc's list of candidates. The reason is that the day before signature petitions were submitted, Yabloko representives announced that 17 candidates had been taken off the list, most of them the top names on regional lists, because they had not sent in their applications confirming their wish to run for Yabloko.

However, the bloc did receive applications from six of these candidates. On several occasions, Nikolay Ryabov asked Grigoriy Yavlinskiy personally to investigate this tangled situation. Yet the bloc leader did not respond.

[Begin Ryabov recording] Thirteen people did not submit their applications. But these applications were with you. You were trying to tell us today that all these applications came later. So yesterday you were deliberately trying to mislead us. We kept asking you, and asked you yesterday and today, and we asked Mr. Yavlinskiy to please sort this out. Give us the documents that are required by law. You kept on saying the same old thing, and rather offhandedly. You think that if the Yabloko parliamentary association is in parliament and wields authority in the country, then it can break the law. [end recording]

[Gorbunova] The ruling is bound to have a major impact on the election campaign. The Yabloko bloc has the right to appeal to the law courts against the Central Electoral Commission's ruling.

Spokesman Justifies TsIK Decision

LD2910165195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1602 GMT 29 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Bazhenov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The federal list of candidates from the electoral bloc Yabloko (led by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy) for deputies of the State Duma was not registered today in the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK]. This means that the bloc could be knocked out of the election campaign.

"Yabloko could not present evidence that 13 people were included voluntarily on their federal list," said Parmen Shenshin, press secretary of the TsIK, in an interview with ITAR-TASS. Russian legislation requires voluntary inclusion.

Parmen Shenshin said that the TsIK, which had examined the issue of registering Yabloko, had especially warned its leaders yesterday to present by today evidence that candidates on the list were not "dead souls."

Parmen Shenshin said the only possibility that remains for Yabloko to appeal against the decision of the TsIK is to turn to the Supreme Court, to whom the TsIK is accountable. "They must put forward the documents tomorrow; there is no time to waste," said the chief of the press service.

A somewhat different explanation of today's events was given by Yabloko leadership spokesman Aleksey Zakharov. In a telephone conversation with ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova, he described the TsIK's ruling as "political." "The Central Electoral Commission was doing somebody's bidding and showed in this ruling that it is afraid of Yabloko," he said. "Our association intends to appeal immediately to the Supreme Court."

TsIK press service chief Parmen Shenshin did not agree with that interpretation of events. "Nobody is trying to stop anyone from taking part in the electoral process," he said. "Yesterday, for example, Aleksandr Rutskoy, the leader of Derzhava, was making similar accusations about the commission 'acting on someone else's orders.' But Rutskoy has the same problem — he cannot prove that Derzhava candidates are not 'dead souls'; that is, there are no applications from these people to represent that bloc at the polls."

The TsIK still has to consider registration of 26 more electoral blocs. Parmen Shenshin said that the work will be completed by 1-2 November, in keeping with electoral law. Five blocs are to have their cases heard on 30 October.

Yavlinskiy Vows To 'Protest' Decision

LD2910213695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2127 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 29 (ITAR-TASS) — Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said he hoped to find a check on "bureaucratic cavils" of the Russian Central Election Commission which today denied to his Yabloko bloc registration for the State Duma election.

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He said he did not rule out "a political order" behind the denial.

Yavlinskiy explained that the election commission accepted 421,000 signatures in support for the bloc, of over 500,000 submitted by it.

The whole problem were six candidates on the bloc's nation-wide list, who "incorrectly filled in or filed with a delay their statements that they want to run in the election," Yavlinskiy said.

He called the commission's move "a political purge".

Yavlinskiy warned that his bloc is going to lodge a protest at the Supreme Court, to which the six candidates would give testimony.

"We won't just succumb. We will fight for what we think is necessary for our country," Yavlinskiy said.

Satarov Calls Refusal 'Time Bomb'

LD3010125895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — An aide to the Russian President has described Sunday's refusal by the Central Electoral Commission to register the liberal Yabloko association's list of candidates for December's parliamentary election as "an explosion of a time bomb."

"Imperfection was built into the electoral legislation from the very start as a time bomb, and now the bomb has gone off," President Boris Yeltsin's political aide Georgiy Satarov told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview.

He called for a "careful analysis" of the negative aspects of Russia's electoral law. "Electoral legislation is a very sensitive and complicated mechanism and must be very carefully worked out, because it involves two essential things: the right of citizens to form bodies of authority and the formation of such bodies," he said.

But he said he did not see the Electoral Commission's refusal to register Yabloko's candidates as "an intrigue." The commission "has found itself in a very difficult position itself — it has to make interpretations of very contradictory laws and take decisions on them."

The commission was one of the authors of the electoral legislation and has put its own draft laws before parliament, Satarov continued. "That is a sloppiness disease which is so common these days. It has struck the Central Electoral Commission, the government, the presidential structures and the Federal Assembly (parliament) alike," he said.

He said the commission's decision might be "corrected" by the Supreme Court, after which Yabloko might have its list registered.

Yabloko is going to appeal to the Supreme Court, the association's press service said on Sunday [29 October].

Premier Criticizes TsIK's 'Mistake'

LD3010101195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty minutes ago we received a statement from [Russian Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin regarding the Central Electoral Commission's [TsIK] decision on the Yabloko bloc:

[Chernomyrdin] I learned from the press reports yesterday evening about the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the federal lists of candidates from the Yabloko bloc. I regard this decision as thoughtless to say the least, inflicting serious damage not only to the entire electoral campaign but also to democracy in Russia. The Russia Is Our Home movement stands for the equal participation of all the leading political forces in the country — Yabloko is in fact one of them — in the country's democratic elections to the State Duma. I do hope that common sense and responsibility will prevail and the possibility will be found to correct the mistake in accordance with the law.

Zyuganov Criticizes Decision

LD3010132195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — Sunday's refusal by Russia's Central Electoral Commission to register the liberal Yabloko association's nationwide list of candidates for December's parliamentary election has been criticized by Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov.

Zyuganov told INTERFAX the refusal was "one of the elements of the massive preparation of public opinion for the cancellation of the December election."

Yet he said he was not sure "there were no sufficient formal reasons" to deny registration to Yabloko candidates.

"I have a feeling that everything will finally be settled for the Yabloko bloc and, like an advertisement gimmick, the matter will even give it extra dividends at the election," he concluded.

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Lebed: TsIK Guided by 'Sledgehammer'

LD2910194295 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[From the "Itogi" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] And finally, something that our viewers may find the most interesting: we contacted one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities, Aleksandr Lebed, by telephone. In a a telephone interview with our program, he said the following. Lebed is categorically against the Central Electoral Commission's [TsIK] refusal to register Yabloko. According to Lebed, Ryabov's department [Nikolay Ryabov, head of Central Electoral Commission] is guided not by the law, but by a legal act which it operates — I quote — literally with a sledgehammer.

The general declared that he prefers an honest game, but now the election campaign is being turned into a game without rules. In Lebed's opinion, the refusal of six candidates to take part in the election struggle cannot constitute grounds for refusing to register a movement which collected several hundreds of thousands of voters' signatures.

In conclusion, the general declared that if the Central Electoral Commission refused Yabloko but registered the Beerlovers' Party, this could mean that Ryabov's department is more concerned to have a bar in the Duma than to have people's deputies there.

Gaydar Threatens Election Pullout

LD2910194595 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, leader of Russia's Democratic Choice, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Segodnya" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Yegor Timurovich, it became clear today perhaps once and for all — or it may be that this is an issue still under quite a lot of discussion — that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's Yabloko bloc will not take part in the elections to the State Duma on 17 December. The Central Electoral Commission has refused to register it. In your opinion, is that situation rather absurd or is it to have been expected?

[Gaydar] I can tell you what our position is on that. If the Yabloko bloc, one of the most prestigious democratic blocs is not allowed to take part in the elections, the elections themselves will turn into a political farce. Second, we will naturally do everything possible to ensure Yabloko's participation in the elections. Third, we will not take part in a farce.

[Correspondent] So do you mean to say that if the Central Electoral Commission finally confirms today's decision, or if a court finds against the Yabloko bloc, the possibility, or likelihood is not ruled out that Russia's Democratic Choice bloc will not take part in the elections?

[Gaydar] You have understood me absolutely correctly. Of course, we will immediately convene the Democratic Choice's Political Council in order to determine the tactics of our actions. I stress once again that we will not take part in a farce.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, why did the Central Electoral Commission adopt such a decision today?

[Gaydar] I do not know that. I do not understand that. In my view, the arguments put forward do not stand up to any criticism. At least, the registration of all blocs that had the same problem as Yabloko was said to have today had should have been reviewed in that case.

[Correspondent] If Yabloko does not take part in the elections, you will not take part in the elections. Democratic Russia has also been refused registration. So we can say that democratic forces will be represented only by Forward Russia! and Irina Khakamada's Common Cause?

[Gaydar] Let us not take preempt the final decision of the Supreme Court, the Central Electoral Commission. I am convinced that our main task is to strive to ensure that all the prestigious democratic blocs at least take part in the elections and second, that the law is observed. As is known, I do not share fully the views held by Aleksandr Rutskoy and the Great Power [Derzhava] movement, but I think that the refusal to register that movement was extremely problematic from the legal viewpoint, from the viewpoint of the arguments that were put forward. We think that the rules of the game should be the same for all, otherwise that is not democracy — it is a mockery of democracy.

Ivanchenko: Situation 'Not Hopeless'

LD3010122395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1118 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The situation concerning registration of the Yabloko association is not hopeless, Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK], told a news conference at the Central House of Journalists press club today.

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"If new circumstances are revealed in the Supreme Court, the Central Electoral Commission will act on the court's decision and review this matter," he said.

He also stressed that the refusal to grant registration to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's association "was made in complete accordance with the law." The reason for this was the fact that while signatures were being collected six names "disappeared" from the federal list of Yabloko candidates authenticated by the TsIK, although the TsIK held statements from these people of their intention to stand.

Yuriy Vedeneyev, a member of the TsIK, explained that the law allows candidates to be withdrawn from the list at the stage of collecting signatures only if they agree. This rule should safeguard the candidates' rights, preventing them from being arbitrarily excluded from taking part in the election campaign.

Aleksandr Ivanchenko admitted that members of the TsIK had decided to refuse registration to G. Yavlinskiy's association "with clear regret." According to him, deliberation of the registration issue was postponed by a day. The leader of the bloc was invited to the TsIK for all the formalities to be explained, but he did not consider it necessary to attend.

Answering reporters' quetions, Aleksandr Ivanchenko explained that, according to the law, the appeal against the TsIK's decision should be considered in the Supreme Court within three days. Even if the court's decision is reached after the registration deadline, the TsIK is obliged to act on it.

Rutskoy's Derzhava Movement Denied Registration

LD2810181895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission today denied to the Derzhava movement led by Aleksandr Rutskoy the registration of the federal list of its candidates to the State Duma.

Twelve members of the Electoral Commission voted "for" this decision with one vote "against" and one abstention.

Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov said that the verification of the federal list of candidates from the Derzhava had revealed that the movement's federal list in reality included 86 people less than indicated (270 people). He read out the list of persons put on the Derzhava's federal list without their consent.

Ryabov said that thus the signatures supporting Derzhava candidates were invalid. "Voters, who gave their signatures to support specific candidates, were misled," Ryabov said.

Rutskoy said at the Central Electoral Commission's meeting that the Commission was biased against the Derzhava. He said the Central Electoral Commission was carrying out a "political order." Rutskoy said he intended to apply against the Commission's decision in the court.

Rutskoy To Appeal to Supreme Court

LD2910155895 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another meeting of the Central Electoral Committee is being held today in spite of it being Sunday. Our correspondent reports that by now the Yabloko electoral association has already submitted documents confirming the voluntary participation of its members in the elections to the State Duma. However, no decision has yet been taken on this. A sitting of the commission, which will examine the question of the registration of Stanislav Federov's bloc, is now beginning. Yesterday the socio-patriotic movement "Derzhava" was denied registration. The Central Electoral Commission took the view that infringements had taken place during the collection of signatures. The movement's leader, Aleksandr Rutskoy, intends to object to this decision in the Supreme Court:

[Begin Rutskoy recording] Mr. Ryabov and members of the Central Electoral Commission whom he managed to persuade are carrying out a political order. That is to say, an order has been issued from the presidential administration to scuttle "Derzhava" by hook or by crook. So far the real opposition to this gang that has ruined the country and has driven the people into destitution has been Rutskoy. And they are well aware that, unlike the chatterboxes who have been sitting in the State Duma for two years, Rutskoy will insist that the October 1993 events be investigated and a trial held. They understand perfectly well that Rutskoy will insist that the thieving privatization, which has plundered the country's public property, be reconsidered. They know that Rutskoy will insist on a reconsideration of the auction clearance sale of the country's metallurgical industry. They are well aware that Rutskoy will demand investigations into all the 50 cases of corruption in the higher echelons of power which he passed on to the Prosecutor-General's Office. They understand perfectly well that Rutskoy will demand an inquiry and investigation into the Chechen events. They understand this perfectly well — that I have no intention of sitting in the Duma and keeping silent. [end recording]

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Chernomyrdin Seen Dissatisfied With NDR Candidates

LD2810175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The leadership of the election bloc Our Home Is Russia (NDR) overestimated its readiness for a tense election struggle, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin admitted at a closed NDR conference in Moscow Saturday.

The NDR press service provided the full text of Chernomyrdin's speech to INTERFAX.

Chernomyrdin was unsatisfied with nomination of candidates for the State Duma. Only 221 out of 261 candidates remains in the NDR election list by the moment. "Someone left the ranks of our movement and passed under other banners out of selfish reasons, someone just did not endure and got scared of the difficulties of the election campaign, while other did not justify hopes pinned on them," he added.

According to Chernomyrdin, the things were even worse on single-mandate constituencies where a little over 60% of NDR candidates remain on the lists.

"Having energetically launched the establishment of the movement, many regional branches did not bring the work to the end either organizationally, or politically," Chernomyrdin said. He added his movement had its branches in 83 regions of Russia, but only 45 of them had dedicated managers.

Chernomyrdin said the NDR had 2,500 regional councils, about 600 regional executive committees and 400 dedicated managers locally. At the same time, he was disappointed with "the low efficiency of this army."

Chernomyrdin called on NDR activists to become an independent political force leaving the aegis of administrative bodies.

Chernomyrdin proposed a clearer power sharing between the movement's federal and regional bodies. The center will coordinate and control political strategy, provide information and propaganda support to regional branches and work with the national media.

The conference abolished the Federal Coordinating Committee at Chernomyrdin's proposal and created instead election headquarters headed by State Property Committee Chairman Sergey Belyayev.

Belyayev Announces Start of NDR Advertising Campaign

MK2810124595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "'Our Home' Has Embarked on Promotion Campaign. Full Use Is Made of 'Home' Symbols"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the election campaign headquarters of the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] movement, Sergey Belyayev, announced yesterday the start of "Our Home's" election campaign and displayed to reporters posters, cards, and other campaign promotion products. The promotion campaign, Mr. Belyayev said, will comprise two stages, with the first meant to give voters a clear idea of Viktor Chernomyrdin's movement, and the second, its logical continuation, meant to focus on urging Russian citizens to go to the polls. "Our Home's" campaign manager described the main idea of the campaign as a rejection of "sharp economic turns permeated by politics." Sergey Belyayev emphasized that, in the course of its election campaigning, "Our Home" will neither give empty promises nor find fault with other contestants, but instead will concentrate on telling people the truth.

The campaign's authors are set on exploiting the "home" theme to the hilt. "Our Home's" official logo is a house with the Russian tricolor as its roof, the front "built" out of the movement's name, with the foundation of the house being the motto: "On a solid foundation of responsibility and experience." In one of the posters, "Our Home's" leader Viktor Chernomyrdin is shown with his hands in front of him like two slopes of a roof. Finally, the words "If your home is dear to you" have become the motto for the campaign's first stage.

'My Fatherland' Bloc Ready for Election Campaign

LD2710203095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Natalia Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian social-political association "My Fatherland" is ready to begin the election campaign, members of the association's leadership — academician Stanislav Shatalin and First Vice-President of the International Reform Fund Stanislav Assekritov — told a briefing today.

They said that the Central Election Commission received 240,000 signatures of voters from all regions of the Russian Federation, and 80,000 signatures for one-seat constituencies.

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As is known, the association's federal list is headed by Colonel-General Boris Gromov, who was not present during the briefing. "My Fatherland" is left-centre bloc and counting on "pinching" the votes from the communists, agrarians and Yavlinskiy's bloc, and intends to overcome the five percent barrier.

Leaders of the bloc emphasised that the economic concept of academician Shatalin, despite its similarity, especially in the social policy, with programmes of blocs of Sergey Glaziyev, Nikolay Ryzhkov and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, considerably differs from them. Shatalin's concept envisages the inflation rate higher than that of 1.2 per cent which is a basic figure for the draft budget. It is impossible to resolve major social problems without the continuation of the money emission.

Shatalin said that he is in his prime and ready to run for presidential elections due to be held next year.

Shakhray To Take Unpaid Leave During Campaign

LD2610175295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KALININGRAD, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Russian Deputy Prime Minister and leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Sergey Shakhray is due to take unpaid leave so he can join the election campaign, Shakhray said in a televised speech in the country's western exclave of Kaliningrad late on Wednesday.

He said his current visit to the region was not related to the December poll, but was intended to help finalize a draft power sharing agreement between Moscow and the Kaliningrad region.

Stolen Data Bases Seen Used in Signature Fraud

MM2610130895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Data bases Stolen for the Benefit of Christians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a previous issue, IZVESTIYA described certain far from honest methods employed by a number of parties and movements when collecting Russian citizens' signatures in support of their election candidates. Today, the editorial office has in its possession documents which give grounds for the following conclusion to be drawn: that a process of falsifying signatures using pretty sophisticated techniques has been developed and is now "on stream."

A few weeks ago a St. Petersburg student who was earning a little money selling newspapers on the streets of the northern capital was approached and offered a less dusty and more remunerative means of augmenting his personal budget. The student was taken to an office located at No. 8 Izmaylovskiy Prospekt. The name of the office was not given. Instead two bundles of paper were placed in front of the young man. One was a computer readout of the names, addresses, and passport details of Russian citizens from all sorts of regions of the country. The other was blank signature lists in support of the federal list of prospective State Duma deputies from the Christian Democratic Union — Christians of Russia electoral association. The student had to copy the names of the voters and all the other information on them on to the signature lists, altering his handwriting as best he could, and forge the signatures. Payment was at a fixed rate, the rate being 100 rubles per signature.

This work had serious implications: As an official collector of signatures, which the student had become overnight, he had to write down his own genuine passport details on the signature lists. The student sensed danger and decided to take leave of his employers immediately. When he left the latter advised him to keep his mouth shut. You can judge that they were pretty convincing by the fact that the student asked, when he handed the documents over to the editorial office, that his name not be mentioned in any circumstances.

The Christian Democrats' headquarters are located in room 18, 8 Izmaylovskiy Prospekt. In conversation with our correspondent S. Krayukhin, a representative of the association, S. Skornyakov, stated that, to his knowledge, all signatures are collected honestly, although he did admit that it was necessary to resort to professional collectors.

There are no grounds at all for thinking that the association's representatives were aware how the signatures in its support had been collected. Most likely they simply concluded a contract with a certain firm (the name is not disclosed), paid the money, and obtained the goods. There was, clearly, no time to inquire about their origin in the heat of the election campaign.

However, the origin of the goods does present the greatest interest. An analysis of the computer readout of the list of voters obtained by the editorial office, carried out by State Duma experts, has led to interesting conclusions. This is mainly a list of citizens of the city of Izhevsk. Judging by the sequence of numbers in the document, the unknown office has information on at least 5,376 voters. But there are most likely far more. The editorial office has in its possession, for example, specimens of forged signature lists containing the details of citizens of Novyy Urengoy. By all accounts, the firm collecting signatures possesses a very extensive data base on the inhabitants of many regions of Russia....

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The names on the list are not in alphabetical order. In the experts' opinion, they were randomized by a special computer program — a so-called random number generator. This is done both to facilitate the copiers' work and to conceal the source of the leak of the data base. Nevertheless, it is not difficult to work out the source. The sequence of numbers of the citizens' passports is virtually uniform. The experts' conclusion is that such a leak could not have occurred from a personnel department or housing management board. The collectors most likely obtained access to police passport offices. And, moreover, not just in Izhevsk.

That being so, many Russian citizens are unwittingly in danger of becoming victims of political fraud. Such a data base could be used in any election — presidential to local. And in the intervals between elections it could perfectly well be used to forge financial documents — drawing up fake labor agreements or bogus lists of shareholders. The data base is multipurpose, as it were. The chances of detecting the forgery are slight. For this the representatives of law-enforcement agencies would have to call on every signatory and compare his handwriting. Clearly, no one will do that.

However, the Duma experts think that this is just the tip of the iceberg. If professional hackers have been able to gain access to the data bases of police passport offices, it is not going to be any trouble for them to bribe one or two of the 6,000-7,000 low-paid engineers and operators who will run the Vybory automated election system. In this system the data on all Russia's voters are even more reliable than in the passport offices and the potential for exploiting the information on voters will increase.

Police Check on Duma Candidates Still in Progress

MK2710091095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev: "The Ministry of Internal Affairs Has Not Yet Completed Checking Duma Candidates in Terms of Whether or Not They Have Ever Been in Jail. Journalists Invited To Participate in Uncovering Criminals Among Contenders for the Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] gave INTERFAX a list of contenders for seats in the parliament who have at some time been in trouble under the Criminal Code, it intended only to inform the public "of the fact," hinting at what kind of membership the future parliament could have, rather than to "filter" the candidates as such.

This was the interpretation of why the "blacklist" was published that Yuriy Vedeneyev, a lawyer and TsIK member, gave to the media at a meeting at the Central House of Journalists yesterday. Mr. Vedeneyev added that such information should probably have been disseminated after 2 November (after the expiry of the 10-day period established by law for the slates submitted by the blocs to be reviewed and registered). But TsIK Chairman Nikolay Ryabov had done so in advance, yielding to pressure of the media people which, as Mr. Vedeneyev put it, had "beaten the Central Electoral Commission into submission."

Mr. Vedeneyev attributed the emergence of the list to the fact that the TsIK used the powers it was granted by the relevant articles of the laws "On Elections to the State Duma" and "On Guaranteeing Voters' Rights." The law forbids those who are "at detention facilities" to run for deputy. For this reason, the TsIK applied to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] seeking to discover the "jailbirds" among the candidates declared. It is noteworthy that the TsIK made no collective decision on the need for such a request: Yuriy Vedeneyev said that Nikolay Ryabov had done this on his own. According to Mr. Vedeneyev, the TsIK had sent no list of names to the MVD, and the police had used the lists of candidates published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

Mr. Vedeneyev expressed a rather low opinion of the quality of the MVD personnel's work — "the attitude was formal." For this reason, so the journalists were told, dissidents were ranked together with "hooligans" and "rapists," and Nikolay Ryabov even had to apologize to former "State Committee for the State of Emergency" members.

To crown it all, Yuriy Vedeneyev suggested that after 2 November journalists should join in the work of uncovering and publicly exposing criminals among the registered candidates so that voters can know about this ahead of time and not vote for them.

Vladimir Vorozhtsov, head of the MVD press service, who arrived in the Central House of Journalists right after the TsIK members, assured journalists that, on the contrary, the lawyers had checked out the candidates in strict conformity with current legislation and the TsIK's request. In other words, the MVD had checked only for those having "served time" or, possibly, "in jail now." The police did not deal with candidates "under investigation" because they have every right to "get elected." At the same time Mr. Vorozhtsov (like, incidentally, TsIK members who spoke earlier) evaded the question of why the MVD list included those who "served time" but were later rehabilitated. In addition, Mr. Vorozhtsov assured his audience that the police had not had to resort to newspaper publications, but had performed their checks using a list sent by the TsIK, enclosed with Nikolay Ryabov's request. As of yesterday, according to Mr. Vorozhtsov, "about 30,000

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candidates" had been checked, but the work on the TsIK's request had not yet been completed.

Regional Activities

Tula Commission Refuses To Register Starodubtsev

LD2910220395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2152 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOVOMOSKOVSK, [no date as received] (ITAR-TASS) — The election commission for the Novomoskovsk constituency, Tula region, denied registration for the State Duma election to Vasiliy Starodubtsev, who is now a deputy of the Federation Council, or the upper house.

His pre-parliament CV includes a brief confinement after he came in the spotlight in the August 19, 1991 hardline coup, when he was invited by coupsters and swiftly came to the Kremlin to take over government of the USSR, with Gorbachev locked in Foros.

Now one of leaders of the conservative Agrarian Party, he is on its federal list and simultaneously an independent nominee of a public group of the town of Sokolniki, Tula region.

Registration was refused to him on the grounds of his running in more than one constituency.

However, the backers of Starodubtsev protested the decision of the election commission at the court.

Daily Highlights Zyuganov's Visit to Novosibirsk

964F0202B Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 5

[Article by Dmitriy Gorbachev: "Entirely in the Leninist Style: Zyuganov Wants To Become President, and Then Eliminate This Post"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The elections are getting closer and closer and the politicians are accordingly getting more and more energetic. Practically every notable Russian politician has visited Novosibirsk, and whoever has not yet done so certainly will. Last Friday Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], came. The visit was short but very full— Gennadiy Andreyevich succeeded both in talking with the people and in giving a news conference, and also did not forget to meet with the authorities. The meetings at the Chkalov House of Culture and the Railroaders House of Culture had a full house. For example, the hall in the Railroaders House of Culture was jam-packed, the balcony was full, and people were crammed in the aisles. A red banner stood on the stage, the presidium was behind tables, a profile of Vladimir Ilich was placed on the stage curtain, and in the presidium itself sat the local candidates of the State Duma from the CPRF.

Zyuganov was delayed, so in order not to lose time needlessly, the candidates themselves began to talk. All this was reminiscent of the classical scheme for a tour of some well-known musical troupe, where before the appearance of the announced celebrity the public is warmed up by a lower ranking group. The hall, by the way, reacted to this very favorably, and applauded and empathized. I recall that it was possible to learn a lot of interest from the local candidates running for the Duma: That the CPRF has in its ranks more members than all the other parties taken together, and that Zyuganov will charge the biofield of those assembled better than any Kashpirskiy, and so on and so forth. They listened attentively and approved loudly. Mainly people of the older generation were at the meeting, although there were also young people.

Zyuganov appeared within about 25 minutes of the scheduled time. No special guard detail was noted. Zyuganov spoke confidently, decisively, and completely in the Leninist style. He compared the situation in the country with the destruction and anarchy on the eve of 1917, and Yeltsin with Nikolay II. Like the tsar, the current president enjoys practically unlimited powers and is not accountable to anyone. There exist in the country, in the opinion of Gennadiy Andreyevich, several governments at the same time: the government of Chernomyrdin, the government of Chubays, and the government of Kozyrev, which listens only to Washington, etc. The mass media, which is deceiving the people, also got hell. The Duma, in Zyuganov's words, is practically disabled and is not even in a condition to verify the execution of the laws it passes. Everything is, in a word, bad.

The essence of the crisis, from Zyuganov's words, lies not even in the economic ruin, but in the fact that the present authoritative system has no feedback ties with society. Attempts are being made to rob the people of their past, rewriting history and school textbooks. Attempt are being made to extirpate the people's memory, will, and conscience. Lies, money, and provocation are the main weapons used. In Zyuganov's opinion, in all the perestroyka years our authorities, and the West and dissidents even earlier, fought not against the communists, but against Russia. The country is on its knees, and they are attempting to trample on it. Taking advantage of the trustfulness of the people and their feeling of justice under the slogan of a fight against privileges, they destroyed the state and imposed false paths and principles on the country.

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Zyuganov is confident that without a strong state there can be no normal life for the people. In order to correct the situation, it is necessary to vote for the communists, who will resolve everything. Of course, not all at once. Time and the people's trust are necessary. The communists will fight for seats in the State Duma, and will nominate a candidate for the post of president (it will of course be Zyuganov), and afterwards he will abolish the position of president as such, because the country, in the opinion of the communists, should be ruled collegially. The government and the president were subjected to severe criticism. Gennadiy Andreyevich also mentioned critical jokes, that Yeltsin served as a servant for the "Big Seven," and that all the reforms are not a perestroyka [restructuring], but a perestrelka [exchange of fire]. According to Zyuganov, there is no alternative to the CPRF; otherwise, a war like the Chechen war awaits the country, or existence as a colony. It is not necessary to recount Gennadiy Andreyevich's speech in greater detail: The views of the communists are no secret to anyone, but obtaining the program documents of the CPRF is difficult.

Members of the CPRF and its leader are behaving more and more confidently, anticipating victory in the elections. However, why guess—we ourselves will vote for someone in December, and then we will find out just who won.

Tatarstan Election Campaign Progress Viewed

964F0200C Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Smirnov: "Campaigning: November Start"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of members of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Tatarstan, chairmen of district election commissions for the elections of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, and representatives of the news media was held last Thursday [19 October].

Raif Biktagirov, member of the Central Election Commission [TsIK] of the Russian Federation, who addressed those assembled, said that the election campaign was beginning to assume an intensive character. He observed that this was the first election campaign to be conducted under normal conditions on the basis of "real legitimate laws," which had enabled the commissions to unhurriedly draft a number of materials, including, specifically, explanations on the status of agents and instructions pertaining to the funding of the election campaign.

R. Biktagirov emphasized that provision had been made for the allocation of financial resources for Tatarstan also. In his opinion, both the TsIK and election commissions in the regions would acquire new status and would be subordinate only to the law. "Although the status of the Central Election Commission has yet to be reflected in the constitution, I am sure that in time the corresponding law will be adopted also," he said. At the present time the TsIK consists of 15 members, including three leaders, and, in addition, six large offices are operating under its auspices. According to R. Biktagirov, the TsIK has registered 69 election blocs and associations, and four associations have already registered their candidates. The signature lists have been carefully checked, and the investigation of complaints has already begun. Appeals to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation are in the pipeline.

R. Biktagirov considers a most important document drafted by the TsIK the set of instructions on the procedure of news media being made available for campaigning. The basic proposition of these instructions is the assurance of equal conditions for all candidates of election blocs and associations. The instructions determine the timeframe for campaigning via the news media. It is from 15 November through 15 December for radio and television and from 5 November through 15 December for periodical print publications. Printed material of the election campaign published free of charge may constitute no more than 5 percent of the total area of the one-time issue of a publication for candidates running in single-member districts and no more than 10 percent for election blocs and associations. There are no restrictions on the amount of paid material. Expenditure on a publication free of charge will be compensated, according to R. Biktagirov, from federal and regional budgets, but this matter has not yet been finally resolved. "It is clear merely that compensation for this expenditure is not a function of the Central Election Commission," he said.

Marat Sirayev, chairman of the Central Election Commission of Tatarstan, who spoke next, said that 88 candidates had been nominated from election blocs and associations on the territory of Tatarstan.

Election Race in Rostov Oblast Viewed

MM2710102395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Bespalov: "We Will Vote for Anyone Who Mends the Roof"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rostov Oblast — "Russia may be someone's home, but our home is made of brick and the roof is leaking, and the heating breaks down about five times over the winter," M. Alekseyenko, chairman of the housing committee at No. 123, Ulitsa Nansena,

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Rostov-na-Donu, sent this text to the mass media. "The elections are drawing near and we are looking for a sponsor to put our house in order. We guarantee the grateful tenants' votes 100 percent!"

The tenants of the leaking apartment block are of course aware that votes have now become an extremely marketable commodity. There are 140 contenders for the seven Rostov Oblast seats in the new State Duma. Some districts have the kind of "competition" that the most prestigious VUZ's [higher educational establishments] could not dream of even during the best of years — 30 contenders for one seat!

It is no coincidence that the enterprising tenants, whom problems with utilities have forced to seek such a unique means of securing the longed-for repairs, have confused the concepts "sponsor" and "prospective deputy." The latest election campaign has not yet begun in earnest but voters' relationships with candidates are increasingly reminiscent of blatant horse trading. Do you want to become a statesman and have privileges, concessions, and immunity? Go ahead. But what will we get out of it?

Needless to say, the idea of picking a parliamentarian who will repair the water supply and sewerage system in his voters' homes is highly preposterous. That is probably why political parties are in no hurry to include sanitary engineers on their lists. Nevertheless....

"Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin]! We hold meetings once a week with investors and we can tell you for sure that the people are opposed to your party at the moment," V. Zibin, leader of the Rostov regional organization "Rostov Is Our Home," warned Prime Minister Chernomyrdin in an open letter (which was given the witty headline by one newspaper "From Our Home To Yours!"). What has made the people of Rostov shun the "party of government" so decisively? It turns out that, according to V. Zibin, the fact that the government cannot return the savings of citizens duped by "pyramids." "Postpone your business," Viktor Chernomyrdin is advised, "find means of solving the question of millions of investors, and then voters may vote for you."

Ilya Konstantinov is also trying to blaze a trail to the Duma via duped investors. However, his attempts to "bargain" with future voters in Rostov have not met with success — the people did not have a great deal of faith that Konstantinov would return their money and were therefore indifferent to the candidate's programmatic speeches.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, who also recently visited the city where he spent his youth as a student, is quite another matter. Shakhray plans to run for the Duma in Rostov's No. 145 Proletarskiy Electoral District where the bulk of the population have links with the "Rostselmash" plant in one way or another. So, the vice premier said that he would "lobby and force through a program for the development of 'Rostselmash,' possibly in the form of a state order for 10,000-12,000 combines."

Of course, by no means all voters are so mercenary. The question is who will be in the majority in electoral precincts. According to a sociological poll carried out by the oblast administration's information and analysis center, 53 percent of Rostov people have definitely decided to take part in the elections, another 11 percent will vote rather than ignore the elections. It was no accident that during his latest visit to Rostov Yegor Gaydar, leader of "Russia's Democratic Choice" [DVR], said that one of the main tasks of the election campaign is to "explain to young, skilled, educated, urban people that a failure to turn out is a very serious gamble. Democracy can do nothing in those places where the choice is made by old, unskilled, uneducated, rural people...."

Gaydar thinks, not without foundation, that "educated, urban voters" in Rostov Oblast will back democratic parties and blocs. This is illustrated by sociological polls, the activity of regional branches of "Yabloko" and the DVR, and support for the Don Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises set up by Gaydar, which is made up of the region's most prestigious businessmen and industrialists.

Nevertheless the notion that a good parliamentarian is a benefactor obliged to deal with his voters' everyday concerns has become firmly ensconced in people's minds.

Even Aleksandr Popov, chairman of the oblast legislative assembly, in an address to Don residents reproached "local" State Duma deputies: "We have not sensed their desire to defend the interests of the oblast. They have virtually all tackled pure politics in Moscow."

Incidentally, special groups in the militia, the prosecutor's office, and the FSB [Federal Security Service] have been set up to monitor those wanting to engage in "pure politics." So far there have only been two cases involving violation of electoral legislation, bribery of voters, forgery, and falsification but that does not reassure or subdue the specialists who know what the election campaign is like in outlying regions. The job of collecting signatures is considered one of the most profitable now although representatives of the oblast electoral commission tirelessly warn: You can not only earn money from lists of signatures, you may also land in jail.

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But the most interesting events will begin during the next phase of the "electoral market" when it will be possible to openly puff your "wares" and abuse your rivals, The first anonymous pamphlets criticizing prospective rivals have already appeared in Rostov.

Daily Profiles Kabardino-Balkaria Candidates

964F0200B Nalchik GAZETA YUGA in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Yuliya Vernikovskaya, Sergey Pavlov, and Zarema Khadartseva]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Mukharbi Shevlokov, Aleksandr Dirin United by the KRO

Aleksandr Dirin, retiree from Prokhladnenskiy Rayon's village of Primalkinskoye, and Mukharbi Shevlokov, deputy minister of economics of the KBR [Kabardino-Balkar Republic], are on the federal slate of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO—Kongress russkikh obshchin] election association. Aleksandr Dirin is, in addition, running for the KRO in single-member Electoral District No. 13.

Retired Colonel Aleksandr Dirin is chief of staff of the Tersko-Malkinskiy Cossack District. He has been nominated a candidate for deputy from the Cossack community. His plans include the creation of a Cossack faction in the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

In an interview with a GAZETA YUGA correspondent, Aleksandr Dirin observed that the closest to him in his views in the KRO leadership was General Lebed, whom he had met recently in Moscow. Lebed expects of the Cossacks real assistance in the guarding of Russia's borders and the restoration of public order in the country.

Mukharbi Shevlokov is a member of the Congress of the Kabardian People. In an interview with GAZETA YUGA he announced that he had received the proposal that he run on the KRO slate from Yuriy Kalmykov (Yuriy Kalmykov is No. 6 on the federal slate of the KRO). "We are not personally acquainted and have not worked together, and when Yuriy Khamzatovich came to head the Congress of the Kabardian People, I became a member also," Mukharbi Shevlokov said. "But my position is probably known to Kalmykov, and this is why he called me. Insofar as the program of the Union of Peoples of Russia, of which Kalmykov is the leader, corresponds to my views, I consented."

Aslan Buranov Nominates Himself

Aslan Buranov, physician-surgeon of Nalchik Out-Patient Clinic No. 5, has already collected the 5,100 signatures necessary for the registration of a candidate for deputy in single-member Electoral District No. 13. "I nominated myself per my place of residence, and my colleagues, relatives, and friends helped fill out the signature lists. We shall shortly hand them over to the Electoral Commission. Some candidates drag this out until the last moment, afraid of a check of the signature lists. I, though, have nothing to fear, all the signatures are authentic," he told a GAZETA YUGA correspondent.

Aslan Buranov is known for the fact that two years ago he ran for the Federation Council of the Russian Federation together with the president and prime minister of the KBR. They beat him at those elections. But the first failure did not kill off in the 33-year-old physician the desire to engage in politics: "I will participate in elections until doctors and teachers are paid a wage worthy of their labor. I have 17 years of service and I get 135,000 a month. I have to spend 90,000 of them merely on the bus—I travel to work from Chegem 1. I have no time to think about upgrading my qualifications. I have to think about where to find additional earnings.... Some people say to me: You are a doctor, so stick to your business, you are not a politician. In this case Yeltsin is not a politician either but a construction worker, Chernomyrdin, a gas plant attendant, Lobov, a railroad man...."

To the question as to why he had decided to run independently, not on the lists of an election bloc, Aslan Buran replied: "There is no representative of Kabardino-Balkaria in the top three on a single federal slate. If anyone makes it to the State Duma, it is only the first three persons on the list. I am counting only on myself, therefore."

Mukhamed Elmesov, Aleksandr Vlasov Represent the Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko Association

The Republican Party of Russia from Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia have nominated for the federal slate Mukhamed Elmesov, general director of the North Caucasus Namys regional branch of the Aspekt Association (main type of activity—sports-fitness services), Aleksandr Vlasov, director of the Prokhladnenskaya Servis-Provod private firm, and Alik Chotchayev, director of the Oksana firm (Karachay-Cherkess Republic). Aleksandr Vlasov has been nominated candidate for the State Duma for single-member Electoral District No. 13.

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Mukhamed Elmesov worked at an all-Union state institute for almost 20 years, has been a member of the RPRF [Republican Party of the Russian Federation; Respublikanskaya partiya Russkoy Federatsii] since 1990, and is head of its Kabardino-Balkaria branch. Aleksandr Vlasov was formerly first secretary of the Prokhladnenskiy City Committee of the CPSU and joined the RPRF this spring.

"Our party wants to make power accountable to the people so that the laws operate equally for all," Mukhamed Elmesov told a GAZETA YUGA correspondent.

The Republican Party in the KBR has 68 members at this time.

Election Guidelines

Premier Charged With Infringing Campaign Legislation

LD2710091395 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0600 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes under the Russian president has confirmed that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has infringed the legislation on election canvassing. It reached this conclusion on Thursday [26 October] after hearing a petition from Yuriy Nikiforenko, the chairman of the Credentials Committee of Orenburg region. The latter asserted that Viktor Chernomyrdin, the leader of Russia Is Our Home [NDR] and prime minister, used airtime given him by regional television in the interests of his movement. Yuriy Syzov, official representative of the NDR movement, who was invited to the sitting, declared that no broadcasts on any Russian television channel had been sponsored by or made to order for the NDR.

Forecasts & Commentary

Roundtable Views Communists' Election Chances

MM2610113995 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Valentina Nikiforova: "Party of the Present and the Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whatever the president might want or whatever the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission might dream of the final word will go to the voters, persistently known as the "electorate." A "roundtable" of sociologists and political scientists at the Peace and Accord Federation's "Vybory-95" public information center was called "sociological portrait of the electorate."

It must be said immediately that the portrait was in rough outline. Thus Professor Ye. Andryushenko, leader of the Central Electoral Commission information and analysis department's analysis group, on familiarizing himself with the signature sheets, discovered that just 1,800 people had signed for Zhirinovskiy in Moscow while in Yekaterinburg the figure was 18,000. What does that tell us? The possible collapse of Zhirinovskiy's party? The "roundtable" participants pondered the matter cautiously because they remembered the erroneous forecast of the 1993 elections.

Indeed it is hard to answer because, as V. Komarovskiy, professor at the Russian Federation president's Russian Academy of State Service, noted "society has not developed an electoral culture" and in different regions the electorate votes in different ways: In the Caucasus region it votes as the chief or president tells it to while in the Far East it votes against the president's wish. Incidentally, in previous elections Zhirinovskiy collected more votes there — that means that they did not vote for him but rather voted for him in order to annoy the president. Because no single person can read and consider the abundance of party programs that has descended on voters. On 17 December Zhirinovskiy may lose, but that does not mean that his electorate or Gaydar's electorate will go over to the Communists: It could be shared by "Yabloko," "the Congress of Russian Communities," and "Russia Is Our Home," the sociologists suggested. Nonetheless they were obliged to admit that the Communist Party of the Russian Federation cannot be treated as a party of the past. It is a party of the present and probably of the future. The interest of Russian and foreign politicians and even businessmen in it and its leader is not fortuitous.

Lebed, Zyuganov Lead in Support From Military

MM2710142595 Moscow PRAVDA-5 in Russian 27 Oct-2 Nov 95 p 10

[Interview with General Staff Officer Colonel Igor P. and Candidate of Military Sciences Lieutenant Colonel Aleksey D. by Aleksey Aleksandrov; place and date not given: "Who Is the Army Going To Vote For?" — first paragraph is PRAVDA-5 introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We tried to find out the answer to that question from various sociologists. But it turns out that there is a special directive from the Defense Ministry prohibiting independent scientists from carrying out any sociological polls in the Army. And the Defense Ministry's own Center for Military Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Research, which was commanded by Colonel Andreyev, has been reorganized and downsized yet again. So military scientists would agree to this interview only on condition that they remain anonymous. Thus our dialog is with General Staff

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officer Colonel Igor P. and Candidate of Military Sciences Lieutenant Colonel Aleksey D.

The Military Electorate Is Conservative

[Aleksey D.] Previously secret information obtained from General Staff analysts regarding the results of a poll of Leningrad Military District servicemen in August was recently leaked to the press. And although I do not regard this as a representative sample, it does provide certain food for thought. Among politicians Zhirinovskiy is still in the lead, with 15.8 percent. And the parties with the most supporters in the Leningrad Military District are the Congress of Russian Communities with 43.2 percent, the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] with 30.9 percent, and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] with 16.2 percent.

[Igor P.] Whereabouts do names popular among servicemen such as Lebed, Gromov, Rokhlin, and Podkolzin come among the politicians?

[Aleksey D.] The Army sociologists did not include candidates who are servicemen on the poll questionnaires. All the same, 88.2 percent of voters in uniform are prepared to vote for them. The definite leader here is Aleksandr Lebed.

[Igor P.] What are the chances of Chernomyrdin's "Russia Is Our Home" and Gaydar's "Russia's Democratic Choice"?

[Aleksey D.] Our researches, which, incidentally, are on a much bigger scale than those in the Leningrad Military District, show that the "bosses'" party and the radical democrats have very few supporters among the military electorate. We studied the feelings not only of servicemen — there are around 1.8 million of them — but also of members of their families. That is another 7 million voters. Workers in the military-industrial complex and their close relatives make up over 8 million. Military pensioners and their families make up a further 20 million of the most active and disciplined voters turning up at polling places. And on top of that you have over 2 million cossacks and staffers of other "power" departments — the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Security Service, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency, the Federal Border Service, the Ministry for Emergency Situations, and others. According to the calculations of General Staff analysts, the military electorate constitutes almost half of Russia's registered voters. It may have a decisive influence on the outcome of the elections.

[Aleksey D.] [as published] We recently measured public opinion in nine military camps in different regions of Russia. We studied the mood of servicemen and members of their families and their attitudes to well-known politicians. When we reported the results to the leadership, the information was immediately classified as "secret." Not because it contains any state secret. The figures are very unpleasant for the present leadership. The military electorate is much more conservative and procommunist in its predilections than was believed. Although the "pink" Lebed is in first place with a huge lead, to our surprise the "red" Zyuganov is in second place and last year's idol of the military — Zhirinovskiy — is only in third place.

[Igor P.] What about Yavlinskiy? He has always been among the leaders in many "civilian" polls. Admittedly, in the last elections sociologists predicted that "Yabloko" would receive 25 percent of the vote and the LDPR only 4 percent. But the result was precisely the reverse. Zhirinovskiy's party obtained 59 seats in the federal district, and Yavlinskiy's party only one-third as many. Isn't Yavlinskiy a soapbubble?

[Aleksey D.] He has his supporters in large staffs, military research institutes, and cultural institutions, in short, among the Army intelligentsia, mostly in the capital. But the further away from Moscow you get, the less popular Grigoriy Alekseyevich is.

Election Intrigues

[Igor P.] Leaders could take a tip from Zhirinovskiy. He exploits any opportunity for contact with the military. For instance, at precisely 1930 hours on 5 September, as a military man, he attended a reception at the House of Friendship With the Peoples of Foreign Countries on Vozdvizhenka. Because the banquet was staged by the servicemen's trade union recently legalized by Grachev.

[Aleksey D.] Vladimir Volfovich is a past master at informal contact. Real legends circulate at the General Staff about his contacts with Pavel Sergeyevich [Grachev] at his dacha in Barvikha outside Moscow. A shared bath and good drink can bring even very different men very close together. And although officially Grachev shuns Zhirinovskiy like the plague, it is no secret to the minister's associates where his sympathies lie. Loyal people among his staff maintain close contacts via LDPR Press Secretary General Viktor Filatov with the Liberal Democrat campaign headquarters.

[Igor P.] For some reason General Sergey Zdorikov, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Directorate for Educational Work, has boldly joined in the election campaign. But after Zhirinovskiy's stunning victory in the Armed Forces during the last elections this directorate was shaken up for the fifth time.

[Aleksey D.] All these shake-ups and purges are counterproductive: All that is left is the most mediocre,

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scared people who hate the new authorities worse than before.

[Igor P.] At the moment our monitoring indicates that almost one-third of voters in uniform are going to vote for the CPRF.

[Aleksey D.] The Armed Forces are increasingly becoming a bastion of the national-patriots, Communists, and Zhirinovskiy's party. Although feverish attempts are being made to create a so- called "generals" faction in the future Duma. I know of a document listing 50 servicemen who are supposed to get into the Duma from the Army.

[Igor P.] I take a skeptical view of these endeavors. Take the data from military sociologists indicating the reasons for the defense minister's low prestige among servicemen — 89 percent of respondents mention the violation of their legitimate rights and benefits to which they are entitled. For instance, 34 percent of respondents, mostly people without apartments, believe that their rights to housing are being blatantly flouted. Over 75 percent of polled servicemen indicate that their workday is unregulated. Almost 90 percent are unhappy with the level of material support. And behind all this "chaos," as one officer put it, they see the figures of Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, and Grachev.

Presidential Aid Filatov Warns Against Radical Leaders

MM2710145295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Replies to questions put to Sergey Filatov, leader of Russian Federation Presidential Staff, at 12 October live television phone-in: "The Leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Answers Viewers' Questions" — first three paragraphs are ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 12 October Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, answered viewers' questions live on air in the program "Our Hyde Park" on Channel 31.

Due to a lack of time Sergey Aleksandrovich was unable to answer a number of questions. He promised all who rang the studio that he would continue the dialogue in the pages of ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI.

Your interlocutor is Sergey Filatov.

[Viewer] What number of people polled go to make up public opinion? Where are these public opinion polls conducted?

[Filatov] I will emphasize, above all, that those who adopt state decisions cannot objectively assess the results of their actions without regard for public opinion. We know that there are different political trends and various social strata in the country. It is important to know their opinion on a particular issue in order to judge the state of society as a whole. Of course, the most accurate diagnosis is provided by a referendum. But this is very costly and complex, and so scientists have worked out special methods with whose help it is possible to ascertain public opinion by means of a poll, which provides more or less reliable results.

There are different methods and aims of polls. Sociologists are very frequently interested, for example, in what people think about particular politicians or statesmen. Sometimes they question a certain number of specialists of just one branch of expertise. But it must be borne in mind here that reliable results are possible when something of the order of 2,000 respondents from different regions are polled, for in this case the percentage error is insignificant and the result can be regarded as public opinion.

But sometimes, because of different methods and differences in sociological schools, there are different results in the assessment of the same phenomena. Although I do not rule out the possibility that there are polls that are initiated by particular sociopolitical associations. Of course, whether we like it or not, they are mostly geared to the forces that make up or support these political associations. Then there are significant distortions. But we have the Levada and Grushin sociological institutes and various analytical centers and services, and their results do, as a rule, coincide.

[Viewer] How are your consultants and advisers selected? On what is their policy with respect to contiguous states based?

[Filatov] I do not understand the second part of the question.

But speaking of the selection of consultants, advisers, and, in general, people who work on the Presidential Staff, professionalism must be the chief criterion. Second, certain education and experience of life are needed. And, without a doubt, political views.

I am talking of people who are not just officials but, to some extent, champions of the president's political line. We have to be guided by all this in the selection of cadres.

[Viewer] Previously, when encountering outrages on the part of higher officials, people knew where to complain. What are they to do in such a situation now?

[Filatov] First, no one has closed the channel by which any citizen can put to a higher organ a question

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which troubles him, including a complaint. Second, the court and the prosecutor's office exist. But the old "suppliant-official" scheme no longer suits anyone. The country's leadership is well aware of this. The public are impatiently awaiting the appearance of a law on the judicial system. This will make it possible to engage without delay the mechanisms for creating the institution of justices of the peace. What does this give? First, the possibility of getting really close to resolving the problem of waiting lines in ordinary courts. It has now become absurd — people wait in line in the courts for many months to have their problems solved. This prompts people to offer bribes, and judges to take them. The institution of justices of the peace, which will take over the resolution of all everyday, routine questions, will cost the treasury less, and this procedure is simpler, too. [passage omitted]

[Viewer] Is it possible to speak of the country's surmounting the economic crisis and switching to a political, pre-election crisis?

[Filatov] I have answered this question repeatedly. I cannot yet say that the 1995 trends attest that stable growth in production volumes and a drop in inflation are to begin. We seem to have approached real stabilization, or at least the initial period of economic stabilization. But, unfortunately, something else is also true, as long as the Russian economy largely continues to depend on the political situation.

A political crisis? Everything depends on how we conduct the election campaign. If we conduct it calmly and in a constructive manner, there should be no crisis. If a scandalous situation arises because someone is now trying to create a psychosis around leaders and around parties and election matters, then, first, we could get an unobjective election result which does not correspond to the distribution of political forces in the country. Second and most importantly, after this we will still spend a long time calming down. I always emphasize that behind this political struggle, behind this flare-up of political passions, we forget about people.

Tours of the country and meetings with various sections of the population have shown that people become alienated from the power when they are left to the mercy of fate. Of course, while someone is waging a political struggle, they lack both the strength and the attention to investigate the everyday concerns of both young people and veterans.

[Viewer] Can you foresee a situation in which the communists will come to power? What is your attitude to this?

[Filatov] I have already spoken about this, and I can say now that the danger is, first, that communists, patriots, and authoritarians [derzhavniki] — very many people — deny the present constitution and do not accept the changes that have occurred in the sphere of ownership. If this is so, they will try to reverse the situation or to make some abrupt turn — which in the present situation could undoubtedly lead to confrontation and even civil war. If authority and the law are not used. This is, unfortunately, because words such as Constitution, Right, and Law feature less and less both in the slogans of the radical opposition and in the speeches of radical leaders. This means that a stage such as we have already lived through repeatedly this century could come about in the country and in the life of the state. We must find a way of verifying the honesty and decency of every party and association. Order, about which a great deal is now being said, can be instilled in different ways. The democratic way of instilling order demands considerably greater effort and patience — toughness too. [passage omitted]

Daily Expects Electoral Intrigue From Ryabov, TsIK

MM2610171095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report and commentary by Viktor Trushkov: "A Headache for the Central Election Commission"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] tribunal is currently examining 8 million to 8.5 million signatures. It is logical to assume that the commission will judge impartially whether all the 43 electoral associations will see their names on the ballot paper 17 December, or whether the list will be sifted. But is the TsIK capable of objectivity?

Let us not forget that it was appointed by the president. At the time, moreover, when they were bringing into positions of power either their own "yes-men" or quick-moving defectors among the people's deputies of the bomb-scarred parliament. N. Ryabov proved one of the most agile. Even the limited-edition post of deputy minister was not thought a high enough reward for him — he was given his own important patch.

Judging by the public statements of the TsIK chairman, not only political analysts but Ryabov himself recalls the circumstances of his elevation to high rank. It is no accident that in a recent news conference, by performing elaborate mental contortions, he followed exactly the path paved by his benefactor. N. Ryabov refused to condemn the president for his call not to allow a strong Communist faction in the new State Duma. On the other hand, after B. Yeltsin hinted that he sees Yu. Skokov

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as a potential premier, Nikolay Timofeyevich boldly recommended that V. Chernomyrdin resign, so as not to use his government office for electioneering purposes....

The TsIK chairman is altogether not indifferent to the direction of the wind blowing from the Kremlin. And this could well be reflected in the ruling on the fate of the lists of signatures. And the Kremlin's goal is clear: not to allow the success of left-wing forces. It could try to attain this goal with the aid of the TsIK.

The first method is to effectively abort the elections. Public opinion is being intensively groomed for this. In particular, the vote-rigging argument is being used. This is indeed a great threat. The authorities could indeed try to play with marked cards. The local executive structures could violate the electoral law and rig the results, and the electoral commission could cover up all these violations. Since the local electoral commissions were appointed by the executive organs, the suggestion that the vote has been rigged could actually be made by...the vote riggers themselves. An avalanche of violations would make it possible to declare the election results null and void.

However, such a step is very risky all the same. Especially since the opposition has begun to monitor the situation in good time. Therefore, creative work is now under way to find other ways of achieving the same result.

For instance, the registration of all 43 associations could lead to the participation of...less than 25 percent of the electorate in the vote on the party lists. "Democratic" analysts are persistently suggesting how to bring this about. All the signs suggest that the politicians have heeded them. V. Shumeyko and N. Ryabov have already talked publicly of a ballot paper in the form of a hefty brochure, which the voter will probably either throw away or take home with him. If, on the other hand, deputies are elected only from single-seat districts, the Duma will be unable to begin work: Not less than two-thirds of the total quota of deputies are necessary for the first session.

But the voters could fail to take the hint and be unwilling to listen. And the stage managers know this. So relying on the "hefty brochure" is also risky.... After all, the 43 electoral associations are not polarized in equal measure. In the left-wing opposition camp the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia], the RCWP [Russian Communist Workers Party], and the "Power to the People!" bloc have passed through the sieve of collecting signatures. The TsIK is unlikely to reject any of these: There are no grounds to concentrate the left-wing vote 17 December, nor is it of any advantage to do so.

Rather, Ryabov's headache is this: Over 35 electoral associations represent either rank capitalists or their people in masquerade. Assuming that there are three or four leaders on this wing — say, the "NDR" [Russia Is Our Home], the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities], "Yabloko," and the LDPR [Liberal Democrat Party of Russia] — and that the rest will score on average just 1 percent each, the "qualifying" leaders will have almost one-third of their electorate stolen from them. And then they, too, would run the risk of failing to clear the qualifying threshold.

Hence the probability of the harsh rejection of "democratic" and "near-democratic" blocs. The incident involving "Democratic Russia" Sunday is perhaps no accident in this situation.

Also in favor of the TsIK's behaving in this manner is the fact that the capitalists have found it difficult to collect signatures. The success of those of them who have managed to reach the lucky eight who have been registered in no way refutes this conclusion. Signatures were collected for the "NDR" mostly by the local links in the executive chain and for I. Rybkin's bloc by local dumas, while the KRO and the unnatural alliance of entrepreneurs and trade unions resorted to the services of economic managers. Gossip holds that their doubles, who managed to hand in their lists before Saturday but who have not yet been "okayed" by the TsIK, bought their signatures. The price has even been named. In short, the first stage of the election campaign did not testify to the people's love for these forces.

That means that it is time for the left-wing opposition to draw conclusions and take practical steps. First, it must complete coordination with regard to single-seat districts. Second, it should discuss the general principles of its propaganda. There must be no public slanging matches. It should think about when to put up various posters, when to swamp cities with leaflets, who should work in the countryside, and how.... Right now it is actually to the advantage of the left-wing forces that all four blocs should cross the five-percent threshold, so as not to present the "democrats" with votes from our supporters that are not backed up by mandates.

Only by behaving in this way can left-wing leaders prove to the voters that they care not about party ambitions but about the interests of Russia and the good of the working people.

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Oct

LD2810081595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 28 Oct 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Today's leading newspapers front-page a report by the Russian president's press service on Boris Yeltsin's health.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper writes that "doctors believe that the state of the Russian chief executive, placed at the Central Clinical Hospital on Thursday, is less serious, as was the case in July when he also suffered from deterioration of myocardial ischemia.

"Boris Yeltsin is in a cheerful mood, and doctors conduct appropriate treatment."

The IZVESTIYA newspaper writes in the review "World painfully reacts to the Russian president's disease" that "the British House of Commons almost provoked panic as a result of incorrectly understood news from Moscow about President Yeltsin's state: Conservative Devlin reported that the Russian president passed away".

The review points to the calm attitude of the United States under the present situation: No alert was announced in its armed forces. The newspaper quotes an opinion by Professor Brian Pentecost, director of a British foundation studying cardial diseases.

Noting that the Russian president suffered from the second ischemia attack since July, the professor recommends that all possible alternatives of the president's treatment should be examined in the most serious way in order to prevent a third case. The professor notes that medics should thoroughly examine a desirability of a surgical interference.

On its part, the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper states: "Challenging assurances by the president's aides that Yeltsin's state is better than during the July deterioration, analysts note that the president was not brought to the clinic by a traditional way: From the countryhouse residence where Yeltsin took a rest after his overseas trip. He was brought to the Kremlin hospital by copter".

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper carries an interview with Sakha (Yakutia) President Mikhail Nikolayev, according to whom the republic lives without upheavals. "Firstly, because we checked the industrial slump. Secondly, because the needy receive aid".

The president noted that the diamond-mining industry, the main sector in the republic, operates steadily. Diamond production rose by seven percent last year. This is a big volume. To compare: the world volume of production of this valuable commodity dropped by the same figure.

Saha set off this drop. As for gold mining, he continued, its production was maintained at 30 tonnes over the past three-four years, only two tonnes less than in the previous record-breaking years. Production in this important industry was also stabilised.

The trade union newspaper TRUD features an interview with Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Kolesnikov who stresses: "I am against any flirting with the underworld. The state must bridle rampant crime without resorting to assistance from some of its representatives.

"Police, the prosecutor's office and courts of law have enough forces to deal with them all — old, young or minor. And we shall deal with them for sure. Give us normal legislation, and ideal law and order will reign in the country, say, in eight months."

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper claims that "the Russian president's attitude to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev started probably changing.

"There is much evidence for this: from Yeltsin's vote for Grachev's resignation at the memorable meeting of the Russian Security Council (Eds: following this meeting held last summer, Interior Minister Yerin, security chief Stepashin and Nationalities Minister Yegorov were forced to resign) to the president's recommendation that Grachev should come to a court hearing of 'the Poegli case' (Eds: Grachev instituted a lible suit against journalist Poegli but refused to attend court hearings).

"Therefore, talk at Kremlin offices about a possible prospect for 'honorary' appointment of Grachev as a presidential 'viceregent' in Chechnya (in the rank of first vice-premier) should not be regarded as groundless rumours."

The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with chairman of the Central Election Commission Nikolay Ryabov who says: "Voters have the right to know for whom they will vote. Incidentally, many election movements and blocs reacted to the appearance of the well-known list, drafted by the Interior Ministry, (Eds: Ryabov has in mind a list of candidates who were convicted in the past for crimes or are under investigation now) in a civilised way.

"However, other blocs start a great and unseemly gamble around this list. I continue to claim on the whole that openness is one of the most efficient methods of struggle against various shady elements trying to grab parliamentary seats."

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Health Issues Cancel Former Yugoslavia Summit

LD2710184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — A meeting of former Yugoslavian heads of state scheduled for October 31 in Moscow cannot take place due to the condition of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's health, Russia's Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX Friday.

"Leaders of Bosnia, Yugoslavia, and Croatia and the contact group agreed to hold an important stage of the negotiation process in Moscow. The new date of the meeting will be determined additionally bearing in mind this agreement," the report says.

Yeltsin's spokesman Sergey Medvedev said the Russian president's visit to China, planned for November 9, had been postponed.

Medvedev said that, however, the preparations for the visit were continuing in Beijing. He said the group headed by the president's chief of protocol, which is responsible for preparing the visit, would go from Beijing to Shanghai on October 27.

Medvedev said Yeltsin had not so far decided on his visit to Norway planned for November 20-21. However, "there is doubt that the visit will take place at the planned time," Medvedev said.

Karasin: Yeltsin's Trip to China Postponed

LD3010100395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia and China reached "a mutual agreement" to postpone the official visit of President Boris Yeltsin "to a later date which will be specified through diplomatic channels", Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told TASS on Monday.

"The Chinese side treated with understanding the reasons for the rescheduling of the visit of the Russian president. The sides agreed to continue active work to prepare the visit, including the necessary agreements and documents", he said.

Yeltsin was to visit China in the beginning of November, but the trip had to be postponed after the Russian leader was hospitalised on Thursday with a heart problem.

Air Force Chief Ends China Visit

LD2910102895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 29 Oct 95

[By Marat Abulkhatin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING October 29 (ITAR-TASS) — Meetings and talks with Chinese generals have shown once again the two sides' sincere striving to develop and strengthen military contacts and deepen mutual understanding and trust between the armies of Russia and China, Colonel-General Petr Deinekin, commander-in-chief of the Russian Air Force, told ITAR-TASS on Sunday in an estimate of the results of his just-concluded friendly visit to China.

Deinekin held talks with Colonel-General Liu Huaqing, Deputy Chairman of the Central Military Council of China, and General Fu Quan, Chief of the General Staff. The importance and necessity of the development of military cooperation between the two neighbouring countries was pointed out during the talks, the Russian military leader said.

The Russian Air Force delegation also met with General Yu Zhenwu, Commander of the Chinese Air Force, and the Command of the Nanjing Military District. Deinekin and his party visited the Nanjing memorial complex which had been erected in honour of Soviet air pilots who had perished in the skies of China, and familiarized themselves with the combat training in a number of Chinese Air Force units.

The Russiam Air Force C-in-C left for home later in the day.

U.S. Study of Yeltsin Finds Nothing Threatening

MM2710191395 Moscow NTV Television in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Segodnya" program: Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Mikhail Osokin to camera and over video of a lecture room with lecturer [his speech is unmonitorable but intonation suggests American English] pointing to a screen entitled [in English] "Transverse Anatomy. Whole Body"] According to British journalists, U.S. specialists have created a "virtual Yeltsin" on computer — a comprehensive computer model of the state of health of the Russian president. The model was compiled on the basis of reports which had been analyzed by CIA experts. It would seem that the Americans did not discover anything threatening, judging by a report that President Clinton made no secret of this, and decided to present the results of the study to Yeltsin as a gift.

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Reportage on Grachev, Perry Meeting, Inspection in U.S.

Dispatch of Troops to Bosnia Announced

LD2810101395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0909 GMT 28 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fort Riley, Kansas 28 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian and U.S. defense ministers inspected troops at the Peacekeeper-95 exercise and announced the dispatch of Russian and American troops to Bosnia.

William Perry noted at a meeting with journalists that the Russian and U.S. presidents gave them an instruction to work out details concerning participation in a joint operation in Bosnia.

The ministers reached agreement on this issue, he continued. Russia and the United States will detail several thousand troops to a multinational contingent which will be engaged in engineering work, transport and construction in compliance with provisions of a peaceful agreement.

The defense secretary stressed that the contingent will not be part of NATO forces on implementing a peaceful agreement on Bosnia. However, it will be subordinated to General George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, and Colonel-General Leontiy Shevtsov and will maintain close ties with NATO forces.

Perry noted that Joulwan and Shevtsov will complete drafting plans to form this contingent over the next few weeks. According to the defense secretary, the sides discussed specific versions and possibilities of Russian troops' participation in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.

However, they did not reach final agreement so far. The ministers agreed to hold another meeting in Brussels in mid-November to take another attempt to hammer out an agreement on the peacekeeping operation.

Grachev said that the Russian-American contingent can start its activities about one or one-and-a-half months after the start of the main peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. However, he added that the question on how the first stage of the joint operation will proceed, has not been worked out completely.

"The main problem is to define how Russian units could participate in the common peacekeeping operation but not under NATO command," the Russian minister stressed. He expressed confidence that "the correct way will be found after all".

However, it will take time — till the Brussels meeting scheduled for mid-November. "Two stages of the entire operation will be cleared up at that time," Grachev noted.

"At first, disengagement of the warring sides and establishment of check points. Then, when the situation stabilises in Bosnia, the second stage of peacekeeping forces, that is the special contingent, will be put into operation."

Asked how to avoid an impression that Russian troops will turn to be under subordination of General Joulwan and, thus — although indirectly — under the NATO command, Grachev stated that this is one of the most difficult questions, and one of solutions is that Joulwan should act with respect to the Russian contingent not as NATO Supreme Allied Commander but as commander of American troops, while General Shevtsov would be his deputy.

Right after the press conference, the two ministers flew by a helicopter to the Fort Riley proving ground where men and officers of the Russian 27th Guards motorised division and of the U.S. First Infantry Divison were conducting a peacekeeping operation.

Grachev and Perry observed how troops of the two countries cooperated while performing this operation. Grachev pointed to well-knit cooperation between servicemen of the two countries.

In turn, Perry pointed to the fact that the Peacekeeper-95 exercise is not a game but a serious matter and a practical preparation for possible future operations.

Grachev on Joint Troops in Bosnia

LD2810190995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not the business of presidents to discuss the details of the military peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. The defense ministers have fulfilled the instructions of Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton, which they were given at the recent meeting in Hyde Park. After their talks in Washington, Grachev and Perry arrived in Fort Riley for joint maneuvers and there announced an accord on the dispatch of Russian and U.S. servicemen to Bosnia. Here are our correspondents with the details:

[Correspondent Sergey Goryachev from Fort Riley] Military bases are all alike. Our scene is set in Kansas, whose windy spaces have become the venue of the "Peacekeeper-95" military exercises. Defense Minister

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Pavel Grachev and his U.S. counterpart William Perry came here by plane after their talks in Washington. They said they had found a formula for Russian soldiers to take part in operations in Bosnia, but not under NATO command. They will form separate subunits comprising several thousand Russian and U.S. soldiers under the joint command of two generals: a Russian — Shevtsov — and an American — Joulwan.

Perry said the subunits will enter Bosnia a month or six weeks after the start of NATO's main operation. They will engage in engineering work and construction. So has the problem been resolved? A question for the Russian defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Goryachev] Pavel Sergeyevich, so if we have understood you correctly: It will be a joint operation under two generals, so the troops are under the control of two generals, a Russian and an American. If that is the case, is General Joulwan in turn subordinated to the NATO command? Because if so, Russian troops will then also be indirectly subordinated to the NATO command through General Joulwan. What do you say to that?

[Grachev] You were quite right to foresee this question. I was in fact waiting for someone to raise it. This is really one of the stumbling blocks. We suggested that Dr. Perry should study the following compromise option: General Joulwan as common commander with respect to the Russian troops is an American general and our General Shevtsov will help him as his deputy; and instructions to the Russian troops will nowhere carry the NATO stamp or visa. [end recording]

[Goryachev] As was explained to us, the Russian soldiers of the joint subunit will be subordinated only to their own command, and the Americans only to theirs. This is indeed an ingenious compromise. But can one speak in this case of joint operations in the full sense of the word?

Meanwhile, it looks as if the practice of the military has already moved beyond the theory of the politicians. In jointly guarding a checkpoint or dealing with a hypothetical crowd of angry civilians, the Russian and U.S. military are finding common ground at the exercises. But the compromise reached in Kansas has not so far answered the main question. Grachev and Perry intend to meet in Brussels in November. However, we were given to understand by the Russian delegation that an agreement for Russian combat units to enter Bosnia at an early stage of the operation as full allies of NATO is perfectly realistic and attainable. It was not announced today but it is hoped it will be announced in November.

Grachev Helps Dismantle ICBM Silo

LD2810212395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2112 GMT 28 Oct 95

[By Ivan Lebedev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, October 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, currently on a visit to the United States, on Saturday took part in dismantling an intercontinental ballistic missile [IBCM] launching silo at the U.S. Air Force base Whiteman (Missouri).

The Russian minister was given the privilege to press the button triggering an explosion of shells planted in the launching silo subject to dismantling under the START-1 Treaty.

"The Russian defence minister is the first foreigner to destroy a U.S. launching silo," Grachev said, smiling in reply to a joke made by a top Pentagon official who said that luckily, this was a single act of aggression committed by Grachev during his visit to the United States.

The ceremony of dismantling the launching silo was attended by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry who arrived at the U.S. Air Force base jointly with his Russian counterpart from Fort Reily (Kansas) where joint Russian-U.S. exercises "Peacekeepers-95" are being held.

Grachev Comments on Stealth Aircraft

LD2810215095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today the Russian defense minister ended his visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

[Begin Grachev recording] Rivalry did exist, does exist, and will exist because each state has a certain level of power, and there is nothing horrible about it. I can say once again — literally a couple of years ago they would not have shown us this equipment, especially the Stealth, the invisible...[break in reception] Now they are trying to show things more openly to us, what they have, and we openly show what we have got. Therefore, this is both rivalry and cooperation together at once. [end recording] [video shows Grachev answering correspondent's question about his impression of the Stealth aircraft]

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Grachev Opposes CFE Flank Limitations

LD2910143595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said he was against carrying out the provisions on flank limitations provided for by the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

"This document was signed while we were living in a different country: The USSR. After this country disappeared, the CFE Treaty should end its existence," Grachev said in an interview with INTERFAX in Moscow today.

Grachev said that during his visit to Washington on October 26-29 he had managed to agree with his U.S. counterpart William Perry on Washington supporting Moscow's initiatives regarding the changes in the flank restrictions imposed on Russia. He said the United States had agreed with the exclusion of the Krasnodar, Stavropol, Volgograd and Rostov regions from Russia's southern flank. These regions will be considered as Russia's home front area.

"We agreed to include the Leningrad region to Russia's northern flank," Grachev said. He said he saw these agreements as "beneficial for Russia."

"We have space for maneuvering within the northern flank taking into consideration the Kaliningrad region's capabilities," Grachev said.

Grachev said such changes in the flank map were necessary because of the difficult situation near these regions of Russia. "We cannot rule out the possibility of the Bosnian conflict spreading onto the neighboring countries which are close to Russia's borders," Grachev said.

"A difficult situation is also evolving within Russia in the North Caucasus," Grachev said.

"The agreements should be carried out within the context of the situation as it is at the moment of the document's implementation," Grachev said. He said the present flank limitations imposed on Russia under the CFE Treaty "do not allow Russia to ensure its reliable defense."

Each Country Said To Pay For Own Troops in Bosnia

LD2710215695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Each country sending its peacekeepers to a multinational force in Bosnia will have to pay for its contingent, a senior Russian diplomat told INTERFAX Friday.

Experts say the United States will pay some $1.5 billion for its 20,000 troops to be deployed in the region. "This means that if we send a rapid deployment division of 10,000 to 12,000 people to Bosnia, as our military propose, Russia's expenditures will account for about a half of this amount, that is some $750 million," the source added.

There are proposals to limit ourselves to deploying only 300 Russian servicemen in Bosnia, the diplomat said. "In this case, the state expenditures will be brought to the minimum, but the legitimacy of Russia's involvement in decision-making on the multinational forces' actions will be under question," he said.

"Not being a NATO member, Russia cannot agree with a NATO general commanding its troops," the diplomat stated. "On the other hand, we understand that a country sending 300 servicemen to the 50,000-strong multinational forces is unlikely to be entitled to veto proposed military solutions," he added.

According to the diplomat, "the Russian and U.S. defense ministers, Pavel Grachev and William Perry, are to find a way out of this difficult situation at their ongoing talks in the United States." "We proceed from the assumption that a reasonable compromise will be found, even if it will take time and possibly additional meetings of high-ranking emissaries of Moscow and Washington," he concluded.

Karasin: Efforts To Lift Belgrade Sanctions Ongoing

LD2710131795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct (INTERFAX) — Russia continues to press for the lifting of international sanctions from Yugoslavia.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said on Friday that "the question of sanctions against Belgrade is being worked on within the framework of the contact group for Bosnia (Russia, the U.S.,

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Britain, France and Germany) in the Security Council on Russia's initiative."

He said that the question of sanctions is also on the agenda of Friday's meeting in Paris between Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, the co-president of the international conference on former Yugoslavia from the European Union Karl Bildt and the European member-countries of the Contact Group.

Summit Results, Russian-U.S. Cooperation Hailed

MK2810142495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Golts, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer: "The Presidents Have Made Work for the Military and Left Journalists With Nothing To Do"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At first sight, this looks strange, to say the least. The very intricate negotiations between the presidents of Russia and the United States — which, by the common opinion of their participants, were successful — have evoked extraordinarily biting comments. This is, however, by no means due to the fact that observers could have felt hurt by Yeltsin who, rather sarcastically, poked fun at their erroneous forecasts that there was sure to be conflict during the summit. The problem, most likely, is that the specific results of the U.S.-Russian summit remain unknown to press analysts.

The fact that there was accord needs no extensive comment. As for the formula of Russia's participation in the future peacekeeping operation in Bosnia, it remains undisclosed. One can only guess how the two countries' leaders managed to reconcile two approaches that only recently seemed direct opposites. Boris Yeltsin has put it plainly: It is unacceptable for Russia to place its troops under NATO command. Moreover, Moscow disagrees with having peacekeeping activities taken from UN control. Washington's stance was also quite definitive: the operation is only possible under NATO command. No wonder, then, that everyone is now trying to guess who ceded what to whom, rather than what the essence of the formula itself is.

To my mind, however, it would be completely counter-productive to regard the presidential summit as a contest in which there must necessarily be a winner and a loser. I am pleased to remind the readers that, unlike many of my colleagues, in my article last week I did not predict that the negotiations would be a failure. Quite the contrary, the starting point for the analysis was the fact that, by preparing a peacekeeping operation in Bosnia, Russia and the NATO countries — above all, the United States — are doing work the significance of which goes beyond a Bosnia settlement proper.

In fact, under conditions of an obvious crisis in relations between Moscow and Washington — a crisis that is being clearly aggravated by electoral considerations — both sides have launched an unprecedented undertaking: They are trying to establish actual practical cooperation in the military area to settle a very real conflict. This was precisely what the troops of both countries were training for during last year's exercises at the Totsk proving ground — and what they are being trained for now in Kansas.

It seems that both Moscow and Washington have realized the whole importance of current developments. They have realized that at issue is an opportunity that should in no way be missed, because the alternative to a practical, rather than a theoretical, partnership can only be confrontation. Moreover, this confrontation will take place at a different level much more dangerous than the one we have lived through. It should be admitted frankly that both in Russia and the United States there are forces (I would not call them influential) that are banking precisely on such confrontation.

To give an example, I will refer to a document entitled "Conceptual Guidelines for a Strategy of Counteracting the Main External Threats to the Russian Federation's Security," which was prepared by a Russian analytical center and is presently circling through the offices of scholars, diplomats, and politicians. Speaking of quite real threats, such as the prospect of NATO's eastward expansion and U.S. attempts to revise the Treaty on Antiballistic Missile Systems, the document's authors propose a completely wild and utterly inadequate concept of a response to these threats. For instance, it is recommended that Moscow start selling rocket and missile technology to Iraq and Iran, as well as Algeria, if Muslim fundamentalists come to power there. It is proposed that agreements on tactical nuclear weapons and the START II Treaty be renounced. The authors seem to believe that Russia's main response to the present difficult international situation should be a policy of "the worse, the better."

It was also not by chance that this report was so eagerly jumped at by those circles abroad that would like to picture Russia as an uncontrollable, dangerous monster possessing nuclear weapons — precisely the kind of monster that can be born when reason sleeps.

It is such dangerous trends that practical military cooperation between the United States and Russia is meant to counteract. To establish this cooperation is a very hard task. It is virtually impossible to develop its patterns speculatively, "out of the blue," as the above report seems to have been concocted. In this way only plans for mutual confrontation can be born, when a

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mere analysis of a potential enemy's combat capacity suffices. When, however, cooperative efforts are to be planned, this requires constant contacts, and much more complex factors need to be taken into account. Thus, scenarios for a new cooperation can emerge only when some specific goal is being pursued jointly, such as now with the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia.

Possibly being well aware of the complexity of such practical work, Yeltsin and Clinton have not revealed to the public the formula for cooperation in Bosnia that they found. After all, this diplomatic formula will be of practical value only in the event it includes a whole package of military-political and purely military decisions. It is these decisions that the defense ministers of Russia and the United States are expected to make at the end of this week. As I write these lines, the results of the negotiations — without doubt, very difficult ones — are yet unknown.

POST Editorial on 'Handling' of Russia Reviewed

MM3010120295 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Bolshakov: "View from Paris: No Room for Illusions in Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are scarcely any soothsayers on the staff of THE WASHINGTON POST or the Paris-published INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, which reprinted the Washington editorial. Nevertheless, 26 October, the day that President Yeltsin was hospitalized following another heart attack, this article headlined "Russia, Not Yeltsin, Is the Key" appeared in both newspapers.

The author of the article, who is evidently well informed, attributes Yeltsin's new "tough" policy toward the West to electoral considerations. He writes: "President Yeltsin has far more pressure on him than does President Clinton to show he can uphold his country's interests. Any objective Russian is bound to realize that a hard nationalist line minimizing relations with Washington is a dead end. Yet any responsible American has to realize that Russia (not Mr. Yeltsin, who is just one man), having come down so far and so fast in the world, needs careful handling. With or without Yeltsin — for that matter with or without Mr. Clinton — things are bound to be ragged between the two countries for an extended time. That is an argument for a steady, long-term approach that asserts the American interest, invites Russian cooperation, but does not presuppose pandering to any Russian leaders."

The authors [as published] should be thanked for their frankness, particularly now that, in the wake of the reports of Yeltsin's illness, the Western press has sounded the alarm over the future of democracy and freedom in Russia. You get the impression that the West could send troops not to Bosnia but to Russia in order to avoid people there, God forbid, taking it into their head to change the procedures established by Yeltsin. But ultimately Russia's internal affairs are our own concern. And what is more important for the West — the fate of millions of our citizens or Yeltsin, who is nonetheless, to use THE WASHINGTON POST's expression, "just one man"?

The Russian press — or, more accurately, an extremely specific section thereof — is also fueling fears now over the distinct prospect of a victory for left-wing patriotic forces in the coming Duma elections. Quite in keeping with the familiar scenario, these gentlemen, who are failing to meet with support from the Russian population, are rushing to win Western support in order to then show us how much we need them. A well-known trick. Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, who was recently dismissed by Yeltsin in Paris and then given temporary remission, gathered together "influential Kremlinologists" (ex-Sovietologists) and explained to a close circle that if he, Kozyrev, is removed, Russia will immediately fence itself off from the West with another "Iron Curtain" which Communists and nationalists can only dream of. And I can see that articles by these Sovietologists are already appearing one after the other in the Parisian press — namely in a commentary favorable to Mr. Kozyrev as to the danger threatening the West in the light of his potential dismissal. And what fulminations there have been against President Yeltsin, who dared — and I quote THE WASHINGTON POST — to "humiliate his loyal foreign minister" just to "get right with Communist and nationalist critics of his cooperation with America."

Why the hullabaloo from the people's orators? Whom do they ordain to rule over us? Needless to say, their own desirable, tame, manageable candidates like Gorbachev and an "ordinary guy" like Kozyrev. What if that does not work? What if the Russian people do nonetheless elect worthy leaders to uphold Russia's national interests rather than the interests of other individuals that suit the West? Let me venture to assure you that the principle proclaimed in THE WASHINGTON POST headline comes into play here — Russia, not Yeltsin or anyone who suits the West, is the key.

Therefore there is no need to try to pull the wool over our eyes, gentlemen! In the world of realpolitik wise statesmen never entertain illusions. They know that Russia, which has today been humiliated in the extreme, must be treated with greater caution and solicitude and not vainly described as a slippery eel. Having carefully analyzed the situation in the Russian

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Federation and other CIS countries they realize that any outside interference in Russia's affairs will have a long-term, negative reaction which may damage even well-established relations.

U.S. Criticized for Alleged BW Experiments Abroad

MK2810124395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 pp 1-2

[Report by "expert" Sergey Lesov under the "Security" rubric: "U.S. Military-Biological Research on Foreign Soil. Leaks of Up-To-Date Technologies Can Lead To Deplorable Consequences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has learned that during yesterday's meeting of the Russian and U.S. presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton could have possibly touched on the problem of biological weapons proliferation. At any rate, according to informed Russian experts, the Americans constantly bring up this matter, suspecting, in particular, that Russia has not ceased research and development work on this type of weapon. Russian specialists who collect information on developments relating to biological weapons abroad, for their part, have something to say too.

If we proceed from the regular semiannual report of the UN special commission on Iraqi disarmament which was submitted to the UN Security Council 11 October, it is Baghdad to which we should look for the most serious threat regarding the possible use of biological weapons. In fact, special commission inspectors managed to prove just recently that the Iraqis, notwithstanding their signature under the Biological Convention, tested and produced a fairly large number of hazardous biological agents, including bacteria, viruses, and toxins. It is asserted that by 1991 (that is, on the eve of the Gulf war and before April 1991, when the UN Security Council passed its well-known Resolution 687 on disarming Iraq) Baghdad had accumulated tens of tonnes of biological agents and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of ammunitions, including free-fall bombs, artillery shells, and missile warheads.

Many experts have brought up the question of how the Iraqis could have pulled the wool over the commission's eyes and successfully kept a veil of secrecy over such large-scale efforts aimed at manufacturing weapons of mass destruction. All the more so because, according to experts close to the special commission in New York, the question that had long been in the air in connection with the Iraqi biological file was who in particular was the Iraqi military's partner in its quest for its own biological arsenal.

It has transpired from circles close to the special commission in New York that Iraq bought the strains of hazardous biological microorganisms in the United States and France and the equipment required to manufacture biological agents in Britain, Germany, France, and Switzerland. Nutrient media to grow the biological agents were supplied by Britain.

A fairly noteworthy aspect is the training of Iraqi personnel to carry out the biological program. According to the Iraqis themselves, their chemical and biological programs date back to 1968, when in the absence of qualified microbiologists and virologists initial experiments were conducted by chemical specialists. It seems that, partly because of the shortage of qualified national personnel, the construction of Iraq's first biological laboratory was started by the French.

Even before that, however, as follows from a May 1988 WASHINGTON POST item, high-ranking Iraqi officers were enrolled on a U.S. Army chemical protection course back in the 1960's. Approximately at the same time, young Iraqi specialists were obtaining scientific degrees in U.S. universities that catapulted them in the 1970's to the leading positions in the system of practical laboratory research to manufacture toxins in Iraq. In particular, Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, a doctor of natural science, former general director of the Technical Research Center, and current transport and communications minister, studied at Manchester University (Britain) and Bradford University (United States) [as published]; later he was in charge of a department that dealt with chemical and biological research. It is also said that General Nizar — former general director of the Iraqi specialized institute in Mutann, who gave its personnel the first instructions on starting work to manufacture biological weapons — also studied in the United States.

At present few people doubt that, given the ample initial information confirming the reality of the Iraqi biological weapons program, the Western and above all the American representatives on the special commission were deliberately in no rush to raise the question of monitoring that program. Politicians have a simple explanation for that: A constant dosage of complaints against the Iraqis about weapons of mass destruction is a perfect means of prolonging UN sanctions until a change of the regime in Iraq. It is also understandable that, while Washington and London take a tough stance on Iraq's violations of the Biological Convention, they are not particularly eager to acknowledge their own specialists' and firms' involvement in giving life to dangerous programs aimed at creating chemical and biological weapons. In Britain and Germany, for instance, legal action has already been brought against firms that were implicated in delivering chemical materials and equipment to Iraq. In the United

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States, such trials in connection with the Iraqi biological program appear to be still ahead.

More careful scrutiny shows that the geography of the interests of certain U.S. scientific, commercial, and military institutions and firms whose area of expertise is biomedicine and who in a number of cases work in coordination with the Pentagon is not limited to Iraq and currently also covers other regions.

In its May 1995 publication devoted to "Spanish storage facilities of North American bacteriological weapons," MOTIVOS DE ACTUALIDAD, a Spanish newspaper, pointed out "strange diseases" that were reported among the personnel of joint American-Spanish bases in Rota and Zaragoza and also the local population. The authors expressed their indignation at the fact that even representatives of the Spanish Cabinet of Ministers have limited access to the bases and raised questions regarding the possible leak of biological weapons components. They demanded an investigation into the incidence of disease and also publication of the results of the investigation so that Spanish public opinion would have a clear idea of what was actually going on there.

Furthermore, THE NATION, a leading Kenyan newspaper, published a lengthy article on 30 July 1995 asserting that the Americans were using the territory of African countries for biological weapons research and development. In early August, a representative scholarly debate on the subject was held at a central Kenyan university. Local experts asserted that many unexpected outbreaks of fever on the African continent have been the consequences of experiments conducted by the Americans themselves or with their involvement. To support their case, Kenyan specialists cited, in particular, the outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in Zaire or, to be more precise, the nature of efforts aimed at localizing it. In their view, it was rather strange that numerous American scientists found themselves in Zaire simultaneously within one or two days; then they were joined by specialists from the Pasteur Institute, and only after that did African scientists arrive, and those mostly from South Africa. The methods used by the Americans to localize the outbreak confirmed suggestions that they had known beforehand what virus they would be dealing with. Curiously, the Americans could never convince African scientists that they had no prior information about it.

New incidents recently have caused yet more concern among African specialists. In Kenya alone, two cases of diseases with a lethal outcome have been reported. The diseases were caused by bacteria that do not exist in nature, but it transpired that they can be created by genetic engineering. The worried Americans urgently dispatched an Afro-American specialist to Kenya, who, playing on ethnic kinship, attempted to draw local scientists into cooperating with U.S. scientific and other institutions. In order to stem the tide of local criticism leveled at American scientists, the U.S. ambassador to Kenya at the same time held a reception to which he invited key specialists in particularly dangerous infectious diseases.

Unofficial Pentagon missions that deal with particularly dangerous infectious diseases are also known in other countries, but hardly anyone is aware of their areas of research.

For instance, scientists from the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research [WRAIR] in Indonesia test systems for the rapid identification of typhus. In a number of cases the results of this research are classified.

The Naval Medical Research Unit [NAMRU-2] is also located on Indonesian territory. In 1990 this unit conducted research into the carriers of dengue fever and other particularly dangerous infections.

Over many years NAMRU-2 has also conducted research on Philippines territory. The research centered mostly on studies in rare infectious diseases and methods of identifying them. The Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Sciences [AFRIMS] in Bangkok, Thailand, is also involved in the research.

Thus the populations of a number of countries justifiably point to the possibility that the United States may be using Southeast Asian countries' territory in order to create and improve a broad spectrum of exotic agents required for biological weapons. Washington cooperates with these countries in carrying out joint medical and biological programs related to particularly dangerous infections and protection against their pathogens. In the process of such collaboration American military agencies seek to bring special biological and military-biological research in these countries under their control and draw on their scientific-technical and human potential for their own purposes. This enables Washington to boast an evident degree of openness in its biological research and development conducted in Third World countries. No one can deny, however, that at the same time the United States receives unique information required in order to obtain new knowledge about potential biological weapons agents. This business also has an opposite side to it, namely, the activity causes inevitable leaks of up-to-date American technologies related to military medicine.

Let us try to sum up the results. It is well known that the international community fully supports the desire for cooperation between industrially developed and developing countries in carrying out medical and

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biological programs and biotechnology. But we are bound to entertain suspicions given the indisputable fact that in the mutual process of opening military-biological facilities that is gathering momentum in various countries, the United States is opening the doors of the facilities based on its own territory, while avoiding giving international inspectors access to Pentagon-run military medical facilities that are located in Third World countries.

This gives rise to a whole range of questions, the main ones being as follows:

— Is not the reason why the Americans conduct their biological, including military-biological, research on other states' territory precisely the fact that these countries (unlike the United States) lack strict environmental protection regulations, while local governments cannot fully control Pentagon operations on their territory?
— Is not the reason why the Americans accept the risk of possible political complications abroad the fact that a negative reaction to risky experiments from the American public would be far more serious?
— Is not the reason why Washington gives economic aid to certain developing countries the fact that this is a convenient way of bypassing the Biological Convention and continuing secret work aimed at improving biological weapons?

But the international public is entitled to know what is it that U.S. military medics are doing at American and joint laboratories on foreign soil and also whether this effort may entail the threat of information, technology, or biological material leaks that could give various sorts of extremists and terrorists easier access to biological weapons.

Deputy Premier in Tehran for Three-Day Visit

LD2910211795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2106 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, October 29 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit today, accompanied by a delegation of officials of the Foreign Ministry and economy officials.

He said in a statement that the delegation came to discuss Russian-Iranian political and economic cooperation, including issues relating to the status of the Caspian Sea.

Five littoral states bordering on the Caspian are in protracted debate over their shares in its oil and biological wealth.

Bolshakov is the first high placed official to visit Iran in the recent years.

He will hand to the Iranian leadership a message from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Bolshakov is to meet Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Iran's Tajik Settlement Stand Approaching Russia's

LD3010100195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Iran's stand on the Tajik settlement considerably approached the Russian stand over the past six months. Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for affairs of the CIS and relations with compatriots, said this to ITAR-TASS. Zatulin conducts negotiations here with Iranian officials on a number of international problems.

Tehran had counted on the establishment of an Islamic regime in Tajikistan if the opposition came to power, Zatulin said. However, after visits of the opposition leaders to the United States and Europe Iranian officals began to realise that a pro-Western regime may be established in Tajikistan.

Both Tehran and Moscow object to transferring the inter-Tajik talks to Vienna or to some other European capital, Zatulin said.

Kozyrev in Amman To Buttress Peace in Middle East

LD2910093295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0746 GMT 29 Oct 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov and Viktor Lysechko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AMMAN October 29 (ITAR-TASS) — "The forthcoming conference will be a major event in a series of endeavours to promote the Middle East peace process and buttress it up by specific economic efforts," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on Sunday upon arriving in the capital of Jordan to attend the 2nd International conference on the economic development of the Near East and North Africa.

Kozyrev expressed hope that the Amman forum will help lay reliable foundations of regional cooperation and thereby realistically prepare the region for entering the 21st century. "We expect to stregthen cooperation with the United States and other participants in the Middle East peace process," he pointed out.

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The Russian foreign minister believes that the presence of a large number of business people among the Russian delegation "emphasises that this is really the 'near' East to us and that we have specific economic interests and concrete possibilities to contribute to the economic revival of the region".

The Amman forum will be held under the honorary co-chairmanship of the presidents of Russia and the United States which are co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process. The conference is oriented towards concrete results in attracting investments to the region and in implementing projects involving foreign capital.

Two-thirds of participants in the conference represent the private sector — banks, industrial and investment companies from more than 60 countries.

Russia Expresses 'Regret' Over French Nuclear Test

LD2810123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 28 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The news of the latest French nuclear test — the third this year — that took place in the southern part of the Pacific Ocean on Friday night was received in Moscow "with regret." The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department. "The Russian position on this issue is well known by the French leadership," the Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman stressed.

DPRK Said To Admit Weapons Purchase From Kazakhstan

SK2910133695 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The DPRK ambassador to Almaty, capital of Kazakhstan, admitted that the weapons being transported to North Korea were purchased in Kazakhstan. The weapons were seized by the Russian border guards. The weapons were transported through railway and included Soviet Union-made missiles. The weapons were discovered at a Russian railway station in the DPRK border.

Ambassador Yi Kil-nam said that the weapons were purchased from a Kazakh company (Ulan).

Cultural Agreements Signed With South Korea

LD3010111995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Geronin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEOUL, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — A programme of cultural and scientific exchanges between the governments of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea for 1996-1997 was signed in the South Korean capital today by representatives of foreign ministries of the two countries. It envisages the development of relations between Russia and South Korea in the spheres of art, science, education, mass media and sports. The document was signed, following the second session of the joint Russian-South Korean commission on cultural and scientific cooperation.

The programme envisages, among other things, the participation of South Korean cultural personalities in the Russian Winter arts festival and the Shalyapin opera festival. Russia will organize in South Korea exhibitions of Aivazovskiy's paintings, of Russian icons, Russian folk costumes and lacquered miniature paintings.

The sides reiterated their readiness to promote the development of cooperation between the ITAR-TASS news agency of Russia and the Yonhap news agency of South Korea. It is planned to expand sports, youth and tourist exchanges.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings on UNESCO Anniversary

LD2810012195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Since joining UNESCO, Russia has always been with this organization. The course taken by UNESCO has never been easy, but the organization has been following it with dignity. This is said in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's message sent to the UNESCO on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The text of the message was read today by Aleksandr Panov, deputy foreign minister and the head of the Russian delegation at the 28th session of the UNESCO general conference.

"The world has changed significantly over the last 50 years: it has become more polarized and therefore more vulnerable and mutually dependent," Boris Yeltsin says in his message. "In five years the mankind will enter the third millennium, which will open a new era in the history of civilization. It is important that the international community meet this challenge of time as truly united nations. Such a unity could be

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built on the mankind's new philosophy, based on the principles of ensuring global security on the planet Earth and the mankind's shared responsibility, respect for human rights, indivisibility of international security, equality of states, culture of peace, stable social and economic development for all, respect for the diversity of mentality, culture, religion, and national traditions of all states and peoples without 'double standards.' I am convinced the UNESCO will make a significant contribution to the formation of such a philosophy. Russia has always welcomed the UNESCO's liberal views on world problems and original approaches to the search of solutions."

On behalf of the delegations of 184 countries taking part in the work of the 28th session of the UNESCO general conference, its chairman Torben Krog from Denmark today wished Russian President Boris Yeltsin a speedy recovery.

Greek President Meets With Grachev in Athens

LD3010122995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Malinov and Vladimir Malyshev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Athens, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Greek President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos today received Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is on an official visit.

The Russian minister placed a wreath today at the monument to the unknown soldier next to the Greek parliament in the center of Athens.

Kaliningrad Excluded From Danish Aid Program

LD3010112795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Taras Lariokhin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COPENHAGEN, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — The Kaliningrad region has been excluded from the Danish programme of aid to the Baltic sea region for the development of economic cooperation. Danish Economics Minister Mimi Jakobsen [title as received] said this decision is explained by the fact that "the Russian authorities have recently dropped the Provision on the free-trade zone in the region." In addition, it has been impossible to ensure that there should be no tax on Danish aid.

In a message to the parliamentary financial commission, Jakobsen stated in this connection that she had to exclude the Kaliningrad region from the programme aimed at stepping up cooperation between Danish and East European business in the region.

At the same time, the Minister said that this support would be given to the Leningrad region. An arrangement on this was reached with St. Petersburg authorities who deemed it possible not to impose taxes on Danish aid. Eighty-five million Danish kronen will be allocated for aid, the Minister said.

Fleet Issue Said Not Impeding Ukrainian Relations

LD2810183195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The Black Sea Fleet issue cannot impede the development of friendly relations between Russia and Ukraine. On the contrary, it is one of the issues that ties the two countries together, Russian Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin told journalists in Moscow Saturday.

Baltin said that the fate of the fleet can only be decided after Russia and Ukraine determine whether they are friends or foes.

According to him, the military reached agreement on the fleet long ago, which Foreign Ministers still cannot do.

Baltin also said that "the satisfaction of Ukraine's appetite for Russian military facilities has not made it stronger in the military terms but only undermines its national economy."

Ukraine has already received three military districts, three Air Force armies, an army of strategic troops, an Air Defense army, 35 military higher education institutions and 64 specialized units. Ukraine is trying to improve at least temporarily its military situation at the expense of Russia's funds and material reserves of the Black Sea Fleet, said Baltin.

He believes that Ukraine is unable to maintain the Russian military facilities it has received or is to receive. In particular Baltin referred to the facilities of the 126th division of coast defense and the Mirnyy Air Force base (near Yevpatoria and Simferopol) which Russia will no longer finance. According to Baltin, the maintenance of the base costs 14 billion rubles a month and Ukraine does not have the money.

Moscow 'Insists' Georgia, Abkhazia Resume Talks

LD2710215895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Moscow insists that Georgia and its separatist

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region of Abkhazia resume talks with no preconditions, a senior Russian diplomat said on Friday.

Russian mediators are currently holding separate meetings with Georgian and Abkhazian representatives in an effort to persuade them to resume negotiations, the diplomat told INTERFAX.

Abkhazia refused to resume negotiations with Georgia on October 24. The separatist regime said reasons for refusal were its negotiators' supposed insufficient powers and the blockage of Abkhazia's international sea traffic by Russian forces guarding Georgia's border with Turkey under a Russian-Georgian agreement.

Moscow agrees that the closure entailed serious problems for Abkhazia, especially since the region imports much of its food from Turkey, the diplomat said, but at the same time, "the Russian side maintains that this is a minor issue and must not block the process of political settlement of the conflict."

"The Georgian-Abkhazian talks should be held on the basis of documents already worked out by the parties themselves at the previous rounds as well as the Russian mediator together with the U.N. secretary general's special envoy, Edward Brunner," the diplomat said.

Speaking on the dispute around the seaport of Sukhumi, he remarked that it dealt chiefly with who the three ships inside belonged to.

The ships used to belong to the former Soviet Union and were registered in Sukhumi. Georgia laid claims on them first, followed by Abkhazia as soon as their conflict burst out.

"Abkhazia sold these ships to a private person who registered them with the seaport of Sochi. Meanwhile, Russia's Sea Transport Department suspended its earlier registration license and is investigating this quite entangled puzzle," the diplomat said.

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Political Issues

Medvedev Reports Yeltsin's Condition Stable

LD2910232595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Interview with Sergey Medvedev, President Yeltsin's press spokesman, by correspondent Aleksandr Malikov, on 29 October in Medvedev's office; from the "Sunday" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Malikov] The Russian president is undoubtedly at the center of attention this week, both prior to his illness when he had talks in the United States, and after the attack of his illness that struck him for the second time in the past four months. [passage omitted]

[Malikov] It has been noted that there are attempts to attach some kind of specific political meaning to this mainly medical problem. Is this true?

[Medvedev, shown sitting in his office] When a leader of such a state as Russia is taken ill, this, of course, affects the world political and economic situation. Note that soon after a rather provocative statement was made in the British parliament, in the Commons, well, saying that the Russian president passed away, this information was picked up by news agencies and the dollar shot up immediately. An official statement was issued later saying that Russian president was admitted to the central clinical hospital, and stock exchanges were in turmoil again, though I will not say it was panic. We have proof that many stock exchange players have gained millions of dollars on that, not just hundreds of thousands, but millions.

One may assume that these rumors are being repeated and spread by those who stand behind capital involved in stock exchange dealings. Those who would like to strengthen their positions on Russia's political scene, its political arena, have stepped up their activities. They try to achieve this by showering the president with criticism and asserting themselves. They are quick to point out that the power is unstable, that the president is unwell, that he will not be able to govern the country, and so on and so forth. You probably noticed that the president has never surrendered to the hardest, the most difficult circumstances he found himself in during his life. I think that this is another such case when he will be able to prove himself, and we will see a strong, healthy, and active president, a fighter-president.

[Malikov] Today is Sunday. How is the president today?

[Medvedev] There were no particular changes in his condition today. I talked to his doctors, to Sergey Pavlovich Mironov, the head of the presidential medical center, who told me that his temperature and his blood pressure are within the norm. His condition is stable. We have received many telephone calls, the phone is constantly ringing here, in the Kremlin and our hotline in the press service. It is only natural that people are worried, but I can assure them again that there is no need to unnecessarily aggravate the situation and the atmosphere. The situation is quite calm and normal.

Foreign Reaction to Illness Noted

MM2710164995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "The World Reacts Painfully to the Russian President's Illness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The exacerbation of the Russian president's ischemic heart disease has already resulted in an enforced correction to the schedule of his foreign policy meetings and trips. It has been announced that the official visit to the PRC, planned for the end of the first third of November, has been postponed until a later date. Pointing to Boris Yeltsin's great personal contribution to the fact that bilateral relations are now distinguished by a high degree of stability and mutual trust, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already expressed profound regret.

There is no certainty that the president will be able to conduct the crucial meeting of the leaders of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia expected in Moscow 31 October. But the apparatus of the Croatian president and the Bosnian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are still continuing to prepare for the Moscow summit.

Although the president's condition does not give rise to apprehension and, in the opinion of the physicians treating him, it will take him "about a week" to recover fully, a question mark remains over his visit to Norway, planned for 20-21 November.

The news of Boris Yeltsin's hospitalization came as a great surprise to those Western political leaders who literally a few days ago were talking with him in person and who, at the same time, pointed out with one voice that he was behaving confidently and appeared vigorous and cheerful.

According to Bill Clinton, at the 23 October meeting in Hyde Park, New York State, Boris Yeltsin appeared well and, although he was moving with some difficulty, nothing presaged serious problems. French President Jacques Chirac recalled that on the eve of his transit stopover in Paris en route for New York to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations the Russian president had suggested a game of tennis with him.

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"Boris Yeltsin was in fine form when I met him," Jacques Chirac remarked.

The U.S. President was informed by his aides without delay that ischemic disease had once again obliged his Russian colleague to take a brief time-out. Clinton regularly receives detailed information about this from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which is carefully monitoring the development of the situation.

Attempts by U.S. journalists to overdramatize what has happened were nipped in the bud by the White House press secretary at a news conference in Washington. Answering a question in which the iron notes of the "Cold War" times could be heard, the press secretary declared: A red alert was not declared in the U.S. Armed Forces in connection with the reports from Moscow.

Whereas in the United States there is no such problem as a "faulty telephone," in the UK this seems to have been the cause of an embarrassing episode in the House of Commons. Having either not fully understood or encountered a careless translation, Tim Devlin, a Conservative member of parliament, plunged the world's oldest parliament into a state of shock with the following statement: "In view of the fact that, as I understand it, President Yeltsin is dead, could we not hold a debate and prepare a statement next week on the consequences which this could have for our country's foreign policy?"

Taking that statement on trust, Tony Newton, leader of the House of Commons, followed up by noting that "this news will, I am sure, be perceived with a certain sense of shock and sadness." Another Tory member — Harold Elletson — managed to put in a word, pointing out that "a power vacuum at the heart of one of the world's superpowers" is arising. But at that moment Sir Patrick Cormack informed the gathering that the flow of condolences was inappropriate, to say the least — Boris Yeltsin was alive.

Dealing with the confusion, Betty Boothroyd, speaker of the house, announced: "I am sure that the house welcomes this news! We are always too interested in bad news. For variety, it is pleasant to learn a small piece of good news."

The news of the hospitalization of the head of state affected currency markets, particularly in Germany, whose strategy is, more than others, geared to opening up the economic area of East Europe and which acts as one of the leading financial donors with regard to Russia. On the currency exchange in Frankfurt am Main, right after radio stations carried a report on Boris Yeltsin's health, the U.S. dollar leaped up by 1 pfennig: In the morning they were offering 1.39 marks for it, and in the evening 1.40.

Professor Brian Pentecost, director of a British foundation dealing with heart diseases, recalled for REUTERS the 64-year-old president's history of the disease: This is the second incident in four months. "It is not necessarily a life-and-death situation," the professor commented. "But a very serious look must be taken at all possible alternatives for treatment, so as to prevent a third instance." In Pentecost's opinion, too brief an interval between acute instances of ischemic disease usually makes specialists weigh up seriously "whether surgical intervention is desirable."

Zyuganov: Yeltsin Should Have Resigned

LD2810181695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said on Saturday the country's political opposition had no intention to take advantage of President Boris Yeltsin's current illness to try to topple him.

All Russians "are on board a ship which is gravely ill and to which nobody is giving any treatment," Zyuganov told INTERFAX. "Even the economic administration of the country, the government of the Russian Federation with the premier at the head, has got itself involved in politics instead of dealing with economic matters, getting ready for the winter and so on."

As for Yeltsin, "the less the president interferes into the political and economic life of the country the better," Zyuganov said. Yeltsin "should have offered his resignation after his previous heart attack, and elections would have taken care of what remained to be done."

Yeltsin Aide: Staff Continues Work

LD2810154995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Although Yeltsin is ill, his administration has undergone no change, and his team "continues to work strenuously as usual", Sergey Krasavchenko, a deputy presidential administration chief, said in an interview with INTERFAX on Saturday.

He specifically stressed that Viktor Ilyushin, Yeltsin's first aide and Sergey Filatov, presidential administration chief, have been regularly informed about the president's condition. "There is not any information barrier between the Central Clinical Hospital, Kremlin, and Staraya Ploshchad", where the presidential administration is headquartered, Krasavchenko said.

In his opinion, the press has also been received "full and unbiased information about the president's

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health." Describing Yeltsin's condition as "fairly stable, Krasavchenko said: "We together with the doctors hope that the illness will be overcome already soon."

Parties Seen To Gain From Recovery

MK2810142395 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Commentary by Veronika Kutsyllo: "The Best President Is a Healthy President;" first paragraph is KOMMERSANT-DAILY introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first reactions to how the president was feeling were rather optimistic: Viktor Ilyushin said, citing the doctors, that the October attack [pristup] was less serious than the one in July; Sergey Medvedev announced yesterday morning that the president had gotten up "early, as usual;" and Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that as little as a week would be enough for Yeltsin to recover. The tenor of reactions began to change in the afternoon. The doctors concluded that the president must remain under their "close observation" during the remainder of October and throughout November. Presidential aides were asked to refrain from visiting the patient. Only doctors, guards, and family members are staying with Yeltsin. Nonetheless, the president, according to Medvedev, "has all information, which is constantly and promptly coming in to him." Veronika Kutsyllo comments on the situation.

The illness of Boris Yeltsin the person sparks understandable sympathy. President Yeltsin's illness sparks in society an equally understandable confusion. Power is completely identified with one person in the Russian Federation in the same way it was in the USSR and even earlier, in the Russian Empire — the very system appears to hinge on the actions of a single person. As in any fairy tale, there is also some truth in the above. Most of the new state system was created by Yeltsin and to suit Yeltsin, whether he wanted it or not. Naturally enough, this system may start crumbling once Yeltsin leaves it.

This spells danger not only for the presidential staff. Given all the political differences, at least a framework stability has been achieved in today's Russia. The framework has been set by the elections. No matter how long they have been spreading the rumors of Yeltsin's treacherous plans to postpone the elections, the immediate future has become divided into segments: before 17 December 1995, before 12 July 1996 [as published; announced date of presidential election is 12 June], and after. Party analysts are devising tactics and strategy precisely proceeding from these dates. All the calculations, at least until now, have been based on the "Yeltsin factor."

It is too hard to reorganize on the move. Besides, any campaign calls for time and money. Most of the parties cannot afford the presidential and parliamentary campaigns simultaneously: the Duma elections have eaten up much funding, and the same amount, if not a greater one, will be needed additionally. Many politicians simply need the Duma rostrum for a few months in order to "sell themselves" before the presidential election.

That is to say, Yeltsin's departure is at the moment a disadvantage for most Russian political groups, with the possible exception of those that are clearly marginal politically, like Anpilov's "Working Russia." However wild might seem Viktor Ilyukhin's fears that the elections might be abolished "owing to the president's illness" (that would be too smart, to go down with a heart attack to prevent the Communists and Zhirinovskiyites from getting into the Duma!), should Yeltsin's state worsen, the situation in Russia could destabilize. Destabilization will only harm those of the established political blocs that can be called civilized, and while it may be desirable for some people strategically, it does not pay off tactically.

It is generally hard to judge to what extent Viktor Chernomyrdin has proven adequate to the situation. It is one thing to fight for political recognition under Yeltsin's "roof," and it is quite another to take over the entire responsibility for the country. Whatever all the possible plans of the premier's entourage are, he most likely does not want it — at least for the time being. Besides, the preelection situation, complex as it is, will become even more so. Theoretically, an acting president may run for the Duma, but it looks strange in practice. Abandoning "[Russia Is] Our Home" would be denying himself support in the future. On the other hand, if "Our Home" with Chernomyrdin wins few votes, there will be no time left to boost its popularity rating. Neither option is good.

Therefore, all political forces of Russia that claim to be serious can now only pray for the president's health. They will certainly make him pay in June 1996 for "the president's second alarm bell" in order to prevent a president with a heart condition from joining the race. But not before then.

Illness Prompts Unanswered Questions

MK2810110395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Tretyakov, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editor in chief: "The Issue Is Russia, Not

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Norway. Presidential Illness Makes One Give Serious Thought to Upcoming Dangers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin's previous ischemia attack last summer gave rise to numerous rumors, both medical and political. One can denounce the authors of the rumors and theories based on them, seeing it all as journalists' excessive curiosity or a provocation. Those who have had their fill cannot be provoked into a hungry mutiny, however. There is no making journalists, political scientists, and politicians (or people in general for that matter) stop thinking about all possible consequences of the president's illness — all the more so in this country, where there are always more uncertain answers than there are clear questions. Meanwhile, the questions are elementary; first of all they focus on the crux of the matter, not on the president's temperature or the postponement of his visits: How can the president exercise his duties while in the hospital, and where are the guarantees that his illness will not become a political problem?

When even an ordinary employee of any organization gets sick, he takes sick leave. His duties are exercised for him by someone else, who takes over the corresponding rights — and responsibilities.

The Russian president is sick and is still running the country? Is this possible with such an illness? And what if this becomes impossible tomorrow? Who will become "acting president" for the time of his sick leave? The prime minister? Will there be an edict or an oral directive? If it is oral, will it be heard by everyone? But here we are being told over and over again: the temperature, a visit to Norway...

It is Moscow that is a web of electoral intrigues, not Oslo. It is Russia, not Norway, that is waging war and at the same time conducting talks in Chechnya. It is the Russian, not the Norwegian prime minister, who is considered a candidate for dismissal.

People who have a certain bearing on political circles in Moscow know that the most heated television reports cannot compare with the way the problem of the Russian president's illness is discussed in the Russian capital's numerous lobbies and offices.

If we are to hope that Russian politicians embroiled in intrigues against each other will display responsibility in this situation, we must at least know that they have already demonstrated this responsibility on less crucial occasions. We have not experienced that. So, if the president's illness drags out, any political analysis that does not take account of it will be either flawed or false. Two or three days are just enough time to understand how dangerous the situation is.

Kiselev Views 'Serious' Situation

LD2910210995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[From the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Kiselev] Let us sum it all up. No matter what the official bulletins about the health of the president say, one thing is clear: It is serious, serious because what is at issue is the fate of the president of Russia, serious because it is his heart and there is no joking with the heart. With that being the second attack in four months it is twice as serious. [passage omitted]

I, of course, can foresee reproaches that I am whipping up the situation — the president is only human, he is over 60, he has the right to be ill. I think that myself sometimes. Sometimes it seems to me that some publications in our press on the president's health are tactless, to put it mildly. Nevertheless, if the aim of the reforms in Russia, which Boris Yeltsin began and is continuing to implement, is to build a democratic law-governed state, in such a state, the health of the president, who under the Constitution has been given vast powers, whose hands hold the nuclear button, is a problem of public policy, no matter how unpleasant that might be to the nearest and dearest of Boris Nikolayevich.

I sincerely wish the president a speedy recovery and I realize how important that is for the country [Kiselev coughs and apologizes]. Nevertheless, we do not have the right to hide our head in the sand when there is an obvious problem.

Recently, the president spent over a month in a sanatorium and hospital and almost a month on vacation. He has taken [coughs and apologizes] ill again. Apart from all that, the periods in which Yeltsin does not appear in public are growing longer.

Millions of Russian voters, who voted for Yeltsin essentially three times — in the presidential elections, then in two referendums — and who entrusted to him the ruling of the country, have the right to ask: Why are doctors' conclusions about Yeltsin's state of health conveyed to the public through Kremlin officials, why do the doctors treating Yeltsin never appear in front of the cameras themselves? As a result, people think that something is being hidden from them, that somebody is afraid that the doctors might say too much.

If the president is not receiving anyone, and if official reports about the state of the president's health always stress, I repeat, that the doctors do not recommend that closest aides visit the president and consider inadvisable

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Yeltsin's contacts with any member of his apparatus, then who is carrying out the operational leadership of the country, of a country where blood is being shed in Chechnya, where an unprecedented number of Russian soldiers were killed in a week, where the pre-election situation is becoming exacerbated? That question seems all the more relevant because as is known the power ministries, the special services, the Foreign Ministry, and finally, Oleg Lobov, Moscow's plenipotentiary representative to Chechnya, as is known, report to the president and are not subordinate to the prime minister, and the prime minister, according to his representatives, is working as before and there are no changes to his schedule, although under the Constitution he is the one who should take the president's place.

Or are our colleagues from the KOMMERSANT-DAILY newspaper right when they wrote in yesterday's issue that the prime minister simply does not want to assume the responsibility for the whole country on the eve of the elections? But who then will make decisions should, God forbid, something like the Budennovsk tragedy happen? There are even more questions today following the eruption of perhaps the biggest scandal in the State Duma election campaign yet.

Yeltsin Seen Intent on Victory in 12 Jun Election

MK2710090895 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Vitaliy Tretyakov, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editor: "Presidential Whims. Boris Yeltsin Is Intent on Winning Election"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everybody is guessing about the reasons for the strange goings-on that have recently been unfolding in modern Russia's two political capitals, Moscow and Groznyy. Taken separately, these developments, which are themselves not easy to see through, create the picture of complete chaos reigning in domestic politics. This is partly justified, for on the whole present-day Russia is reminiscent of a ship sailing across a stormy sea God knows where, its crew engaged not only in plugging numerous holes (two or three of them — Chechnya, finances, and crime — are below the waterline) but also in fighting among themselves.

Yet, the chaos reigning on various decks and in the holds of Russia does not mean that the entire crew has definitely gone crazy. The ship is large, certain rooms still retain both comfort and the habit to ruminate on the immediate future.

If the goings-on are seen from the bottom up, from the thick of a battle for a piece of a Duma seat or yet another government loan, it is impossible to make out anything, but what if we take a look from the captain's bridge?

A storm, a heavy sea, holes, criminal and political brawls — while evolving according to their own laws, they are all nonetheless linked to two dates that no one is able to throw overboard — 17 December is the parliamentary election; in June, possibly, there will be a presidential election. These are the beacons or two reefs, if you wish. They cannot be avoided, bypassed, or jumped over. Both the infighting and the plugging of holes make sense only in connection with these two dates.

Let us not forget that there is a person in Russia who is able to make very considerable adjustments to other people's lines of conduct without having to do anything or utter a single word.

So, apart from the two dates (17 December and 12 June), there are two other constants. First, Boris Yeltsin wants to remain president — all the key players, except for idiots, have realized that. Second (this is what few people have understood so far), he wants to achieve this in the election that will be held 12 June 1996, that is, any delays and cancellations are for the time being considered only as backup scenarios (why this is so is a subject for a separate article).

Now, having described the theory of what is going on, so to speak, let us take a look at the practice.

Boris Yeltsin seeks to broaden his potential electorate (which has been at its lowest ebb over the past two years) and win over more political allies. For this purpose he

— denies his confidence in Aleksey Ilyushenko, the tamest prosecutor of all times and nations; nominates Yuriy Skuratov to the post, a person about whom no one can say anything bad;

— effectively removes [Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev, criticized by virtually the entire ruling elite of the country;

— plans to drop [Central Bank Acting Chairperson] Tatyana Paramonova's candidacy for the post of Central Bank chairman because the Russian financial community is displeased with her performance;

— loudly proclaims that the Communists must be denied support in the elections. This is not a clumsy attack on specific parties — these are thought-out words aimed, first and foremost, at the "new Russians," who are now actually plagued by one single question: What will happen to us if the Communists come to power? Yeltsin's response is: Don't worry, they won't, but hold onto me; I may have become pinkish, but I am not red. The second pair of ears for which this was said belong to the West.

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At the same time, Yeltsin, with his immense populist potential, is not that guileless to play only for the elites. He has started a new game with the voters proper: Hence, his love/friendship with Lukashenka; regrets about victims of the Chechnya war; his fatherly advice to Pavel Grachev to appear in court.

Even this is not all, however. Elites or no elites, people or no people, he should give thought to his potential rivals as well. There you go — Yuriy Luzhkov and Viktor Chernomyrdin all at once (in exchange for something) announce in as loud a voice as possible: We will not run for the presidency under any circumstances.

And what if? Other people's minds are a mystery. Yuriy Skokov is resuscitated as a "shadow prime minister" or, rather, as a "shadow presidential candidate" in case of an unpropitious balance of voters' predilections on June's eve. At the same time, a decision is made to step up efforts to bolster Ivan Rybkin's bloc so as not only to make sure that he will enter the Duma but also to make a full-blown "presidential candidate just in case" out of Ivan Petrovich [Rybkin].

Will Boris Yeltsin at the same time seriously try to repulse a Communist-led assault on the Duma? Anatoliy Lukyanov need not have worried — he will not. There can be nothing better for Boris Yeltsin's democratic victory in the upcoming presidential election than a leftist Duma with a strong Communist faction and Speaker Gennadiy Zyuganov at the helm into the bargain. Then not only the West but Russia's own voters will say: Enough is enough; a left Duma and a Communist president — this is too much of a good thing. Let Yeltsin stay on. What about the government then? Why not a coalition government, let's say, with Yuriy Vladimirovich Skokov at the helm?

Meanwhile, Chechnya is a thorn in everyone's flesh. Boris Yeltsin has not yet made up his mind as to what is to be done further. A straw must break in a strong hand, but not a people angered by senseless carnage. Russian society is increasingly leaning toward settling the problem by force. For this reason, having "democratically" resolved his conflict with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, Pavel Grachev must stay on. At the same time, it is essential to help the duelists with a fatherly piece of advice: You'd better make peace for the sake of higher interest. They do make peace (indeed, for the sake of higher interests).

In Chechnya, however, a lot of things are still unclear. It might be a good idea to freeze the conflict and put it under control, so that if tough action is to be taken, this will be done when the president needs that, not when somebody takes it into his head. In case of an authorized or unauthorized heightening of the conflict, a figure for dismissal is already prepared: this is Chernomyrdin, a well-known peacemaker.

In a word, those who are trying to guess why the president all of a sudden blurted this or that out are simply wasting their time. None of his recent slips of the tongue are real slipups, it is all a sophisticated, intuitively calculating electoral game.

The other day I shared my hypothesis about Yeltsin's desire to remain president (something that is evident) — but to do so democratically (something unbelievable) — with a knowledgeable person. What I heard in response was this: "You know, he even forbade giving him any memos on postponing the election."

Lukin Criticizes Yeltsin's Handling of Kozyrev Affair

MM2610150995 Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 3

[Feature comprising comments by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of State Duma International Affairs Committee, and Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, director of Institute of Contemporary Politics and Economics and former Russian Federation first deputy foreign minister: "Everything Depends on the Cadres. But What Happens 'Out of Shot'?" — first paragraph is TRUD introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yeltsin's recent statements about Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his department have elicited a lively response from political and public circles. We cite the opinions of people who professionally tackle questions of foreign policy.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee:

The statements which the president made recently in respect of the Foreign Ministry and the minister have made contradictory impressions. On the one hand, it is obvious that there is active discussion of the question of replacing the Foreign Ministry leadership and the minister in particular. On the other hand, this is being done in a strange way.

Here I would highlight two things: substance and style. As regards substance, in my view these replacements are long overdue, for complaints about the Foreign Ministry are being made by very broad circles of our public and by, in effect, the overwhelming majority of the political spectrum. Russia's status in the world satisfies no one. Of course, it is totally unrealistic and shortsighted to pretend that Russia is the Soviet Union and that nothing has happened. Today Russia must pursue a foreign policy commensurate with its influence. But its lack of

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clearly expressed interests, line, and strategy is apparent to the naked eye. Constant vacillations and zigzagging can be seen — from the merging of our positions with the West to noisy hectoring of the West. The foreign policy failures are obvious, and equally obvious is the inability to resolve questions that have to be resolved. These are the main crisis situations around the country and also the Yugoslav crisis. Therefore the question is urgent. With regard to substance I agree, in general, with the president's statements concerning the need to seek the optimum figures who will correctly present, reflect, and implement the present policy.

But the style in which this was done gives rise to questions. First, why was it necessary to speak of this directly before a trip abroad in which the foreign minister was clearly to participate? Second, if this problem had been raised in public, why try to drop it the next day, and in a rather peculiar manner?

In general, all this gives rise to more questions than answers. In my opinion, the style of resolving this problem, important as it is in substance, could have been quite different. This is very important for our foreign policy, and not only for the president himself and for his contacts, so to speak, with society.

The president has started actively making contact with the public, which is a very good and necessary thing, but I would like more careful preparations to be made for such contacts. There is another aspect too: One should respect the foreign minister and not place him in an awkward position, whoever he might be. [Lukin ends]

Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, director of the Institute of Contemporary Politics and Economics and former Russian Federation first deputy foreign minister:

Today the figure of Russia's foreign minister really is at the center of the attention of both our public and the world public. It is possible to take different attitudes to the president's not always consistent statements about Kozyrev and the situation at the Foreign Ministry, but I believe that it is no coincidence that, crudely speaking, Yeltsin "blew his top." He was forced to do so by our recent foreign policy miscalculations and also by the negative attitude toward the Foreign Ministry's policy on the part of various political forces inside Russia.

Kozyrev himself has confirmed that his position is shaky by his decision to run for the new Duma from a single-seat electoral district. By becoming a deputy, Andrey Vladimirovich secures an opportunity handsomely to leave the Foreign Ministry to serve his voters. Or (if the storm clouds disperse) to remain at the ministry, thereby leaving open his electoral district, where it will certainly be necessary to hold a by-election.

Indeed, what if the president decides to leave Kozyrev as minister for several more years? Knowing Andrey Vladimirovich, I can maintain that he would not object to his diplomatic career being extended. I suspect that none other than Kozyrev himself had an influence on the fact that the next day the president corrected his own statement on the minister: Suddenly he spoke not of the resignation of the head of the foreign policy department but of choosing a good deputy for him, who would deal with cadres, the work of the apparatus, etc.

It would be very good if someone really did tackle cadres properly, with respect and a good attitude to the people who work at the Foreign Ministry. The minister does not tackle this himself and never has.

As far as I know, all those who tried to protect the apparatus from the minister were dispersed all over the world. I will not name names now, so as not to harm these people. You have only to analyze who has gone to various countries as ambassador over the past 12-18 months, and it will at once be clear what I am talking about.

The Foreign Ministry is in a very grave state. Above all, I feel human pain for the older generation. They are brilliant professionals who always served the cause and not some political fashion and who, you might say, lived in poverty. As for young people, in general there are very few talented young people left in the Foreign Ministry. I do not wish to offend anyone in this way, but many of the people aged between 30 and 45 years have left. They have simply been offered better working conditions. Hardly anyone now comes to the from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations: Many graduates go into entrepreneurial structures — Russian and foreign ones. This is what the cadre situation is now at the Foreign Ministry.

Shumeyko Calls On Yeltsin To Veto Federation Council Law

LD3010111795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation Council chairman Vladimir Shumeyko requested President Boris Yeltsin on Monday to veto the law on the formation of the upper house of the national parliament as, according to him, it would block its work for a long time.

The implementation of the law "can paralyse the activities of the Federation Council for a considerably long period after the elections of deputies to the State Duma (on December 17)", Federation Council spokesman

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Yuriy Algunov told Tass Monday quoting Shumeyko's letter to Yeltsin.

The law envisages that only elected local governors can sit in the Federation Council, while most local elections are to be held in 1996. At present many of the upper house members were appointed to their top positions in regional administrations by the president. The mandate of the Federation Council expires together with that of the State Duma.

The upper house voted down the law, however, the State Duma succeeded to override it on Friday [27 October] and the president has now two week to sign or veto the document.

Algunov explained that, if the law is signed, the Federation Council can have a maximum of 106 members already elected in their regions by January, while at least 130 senators are necessary for the house to work.

The upper house, according to the Constitution, is not elected, but formed and includes two top officials from the executive and legislative branches of authority of each of the 89 Russian regions.

Shumeyko warned in his letter that the situation will inevitably emerge when the State Duma will remain the only working house of the bicameral Russian parliament.

Shumeyko also wants that representtaives of federal authorities be included into the upper house.

Chernomyrdin Rejects U.S., Japanese Economic Models

LD2810134195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 28 October, in its regular "Vesti" newscast, broadcasts a 2-minute report by correspondent T. Aldoshin from the second congress of the Russian Free Economic Society, a non-political organization of economists which traces its history from the pre-revolution times, when it was a well-known scholarly society under the patronage of the Russian monarchy under the name of the Imperial Free Economic Society. Aldoshin says that the congress was opened by its chairman, former Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov, and was attended by Russia's Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, who addressed the audience.

Aldoshin quotes Chernomyrdin as saying that the economic reform models proposed by the IMF are absolutely unacceptable for Russia. Russia accepts neither the American nor the Japanese models of economic development. We do not have reasons to adjust every step we are taking to suit the western mood. Not the least because, for one thing, there is no consensus of opinion in the West on what is taking place in our country.

Chernomyrdin says: "Life urges us to re-examine many of the over-simplified approaches to economic policy and the social sphere restructuring. It demands a more thoughtful consideration of our own, as well as global experience, in the sphere of the national economy. In other words, we need to re-examine economic science as a whole."

Premier Favors State Support of Agro-Industrial Complex

LD2710190195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — State support for the agro-industrial complex, including the delay of credit repayment, will total 35 trillion rubles in 1995, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at the All-Russia Congress of Landowners Friday.

He believes it necessary to continue providing state assistance to both farmers and collective agricultural enterprises because agriculture was "hit especially hard" by reforms currently under way in Russia. In 1995 alone, 19,000 of the 283,000 Russian farms ceased to exist (20,800 farms went bankrupt in 1994 and 14,100 in 1993 — IF Note).

According to Chernomyrdin, Russian farmers produce 4.5% of grain, 14% of sunflower seeds and account for 4% of the total agricultural production, but this is "only the beginning."

At the same time, only 27% of funds earmarked in the federal budget for support of farms were actually provided. Farms received only 50 of the 80 billion rubles allotted for leasing agricultural equipment. Farmers often have to work in situations characterized by deficit of funds, said the prime minister.

He also said the government will soon adopt a federal program of support for farms and small-scale agricultural enterprises. He promised to pay off all state debts to farmers in October-November, provide 100 billion rubles for leasing agricultural equipment and ensure state purchase of agricultural goods produced by farmers.

Chernomyrdin said that support for other agricultural enterprises is envisaged in the 1996 federal budget "on the level of 1995," as well as in the agricultural development program until the year 2000, soon to be discussed by the government.

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Lapshin Continues Crusade Against Land Referendum

LD2710211495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Russia's peasants have firmly determined their position with respect to land, it should belong to those who work on in and its purchase and sale should be prohibited with the exception of garden and dacha plots, Chairman of Russia's Agrarian Party Mikhail Lapshin declared at the 2nd All-Russian Peasants' Rally held in Moscow Friday under the motto Preserve Land to Save Russia.

Lapshin described the proposal of Our Home is Russia movement and of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord to hold a referendum on private ownership for land as a populist one and underlined that "they bring together peasants" by the statements on an immediate implementation of the purchase and sale mechanism with respect to land. Lapshin reminded his audience that the rally was held on the 2nd anniversary of a 1993 presidential decree regulating land relations which, as he said, "has opened the locks for land's squandering, for its sale to all willing people, including foreigners."

Peasants "categorically oppose any referendum on land," Lapshin underlined, but if the issue is forced then the issues should be worded concretely and its results should be recorded separately for residents of the country and of the city.

Lapshin described the peasants' rally as a strong start to the Agrarian Party's election campaign. "Peasant appeals will find response among Russia's honest people," he said, adding the electoral association will receive considerable support at the upcoming elections.

Russia's Agriculture and Food Products Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk, head of Russia's Agrarian Union Vasiliy Starodubtsev, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, and others are participating in the All-Russian Peasants' Rally which has gathered more than 2,000 peasants from Russia's 74 regions.

Rybkin Calls Referendum 'Senseless Idea'

LD2710134495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) speaker Ivan Rybkin sent a message of greetings to the presidium of the All-Russian agricultural congress, expressing support for a position of Russian peasantry in their approaches to the question on land.

The speaker noted that a referendum on free purchase-sale of land (advocated by some parties and blocs) is another senseless idea and unjustified waste of huge funds and time, ITAR-TASS learnt at the State Duma press centre here on Friday.

"This problem has been settled by the Russian Constitution. It is self-evident that land used for orchards, country houses, household auxiliary installations, kitchen-gardens and private dwelling houses is private property of citizens," the message says.

Rybkin stressed that the right to dispose of agricultural lands should be certainly regulated by law and the land code, as is the case in most countries.

Private Farmers Seek Market of Land

LD2710160695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The leader of the Russian private farmers' union believes that a market of land is the sole means of taking farm land away from incompetent owners and transferring it to competent ones. Vladimir Bashmachnikov was speaking at the opening of an all-Russia congress of private farmers in Moscow on Friday. Bashmachnikov also leads an association of private farms and farm cooperatives with a membership of 283,000 farmers.

Bashmachnikov believes that without a chance to sell, buy or mortgage land farm-workers cannot hope for investments or credits. This is what makes the private farmers' union's position fundamentally different from that of the Communist Party of Russia, which prefers the distribution of land by decree and of the Agrarian Party of Russia, which insists on leasing.

At the same time the private farmers' leader said the union did not support excessive liberalization of the land market and was prepared to agree to sensible restrictions. The private farmers' union is also prepared to support farm cooperatives on the condition they have been formed on a voluntary basis. Land ownership rights should in any case be retained by the individual, and not transferred to cooperatives.

The congress being held on the initiative of the private farmers' union (in the course of Our Home Is Russia's election campaign), has brought together 800 delegates. They will ask the president and prime minister to lead the agrarian reform in person, because only the settlement of the land question — a fundamental political issue — would guarantee political stability in the country.

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Academician Shatalin To Run for President

MK2710142395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Stanislav Shatalin To Run for President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Academician Stanislav Shatalin, a leader of the "My Fatherland" electoral bloc, has decided to contest the 1996 presidential elections. Mr. Shatalin attributes this decision to his intention "seriously to join in the political fray" and sees the State Duma elections as "an intermediate stage" in his political career.

Government Improves Financing of Foreign Ministry

LD2710232995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1443 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Government has passed a resolution on the Foreign Ministry's financial and logistical situation, aimed at easing its finances and dealing with a number of acute issues that have built up over the years to affect its viability, ITAR-TASS was told by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov.

The resolution is intended to improve the remuneration of staff at central headquarters and at overseas missions, he said. As far as the latter are concerned, the emphasis is on improving the financial well-being of junior diplomats and of administrative and support staff.

The second group of issues that the government resolution should solve concerns the level of equipment at the ministry. Additional investments will be made to complete a foreign policy information system. This is a complex computerized network linking overseas missions and handling essential foreign policy information and feedback. It is linked to a number of data banks in Russia and abroad.

We also expect the resolution to help us better equip the central staff and overseas missions with computer and communications technology. Our staff's work is computerized to a fairly high degree. Our diplomats have over 700 PCs, and it is not so easy to maintain them and obtain spare parts and consumables.

The Economics and Finance Ministries have been asked to find ways next year of making specific provision for a refit of the Foreign Ministry's press center. Another issue being looked at is how to bring forward the construction of more office space. This will relieve the "overpopulation" in current premises where working conditions have long been sub-standard, and also resolve a whole range of technical issues vital to the functioning of all foreign policy establishments in line with international practice.

The money we have been allocated will not, of course, solve all the logistics and finance problems at the center and at overseas missions, Pastukhov said. But we are well aware that given the current situation, what we have got shows once again that the Russian president and government view the diplomatic service as an important instrument of state.

All this will help us work more efficiently and hold on to our staff, especially young diplomats. Without them, we cannot hope that the diplomatic service will achieve its goals and perform well in the short- or long-term. The decision adopted is the outcome of the work of a commission that was formed on the president's instructions. All of our staff working in Moscow and at more than 200 overseas sites are grateful for the support we have received in this government decision, Pastukhov said.

Government To Repay Loan on Payment of Pensions

MM2610140195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 4

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1024, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin on 23 October: "On the Provision of Financial Assistance to the Russian Federation Pension Fund"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to ensuring the payment of pensions in accordance with the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR," the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall formulate a guarantee from the Russian Federation Government to the Russian Federation Foreign Trade Bank for the repayment (including interest) of the $100-million loan granted by that bank to the Russian Federation Pension Fund to ensure payment of state pensions in 1995 as part of the funds traced during the process of the execution of the federal budget for 1995, the loan to be repaid no later than 31 December 1995.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government
[Dated] Moscow, 23 October 1995
No. 1024

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Government To Compensate for Devalued Savings

LD2810164795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Government has drawn up a draft law on compensating the population their savings devalued by inflation, Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin told INTERFAX today.

Yasin said the draft law would soon be submitted to the State Duma, parliament's lower chamber, for consideration.

Yasin said the devalued savings would be compensated mainly from money received from the sale of state-owned property rather than from additional money issues.

Yasin said the compensation period might require about 15 years. "The draft law will not fix the compensation's quotient but will just determine the programs to be implemented for this purpose," Yasin said.

Glazyev Denies Plans To Join Coalition Government

LD2810172495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — A leader of the Congress of Russian Communities Sergey Glazyev rejects reports on his plans to join a future coalition government.

His possible emergence as the economics minister of a coalition government had never been discussed with anyone, Glazyev told INTERFAX Saturday.

Instead of trying to join a coalition government, the Congress of Russian Communities works for "changes in the Russian political strategies," Glazyev said, but it will be possible to meet the people's political interests only if the Congress comes to control a majority of votes in the national legislature.

Earlier the leader of the Our Home Is Russia movement Prime-Minister Chernomyrdin spoke of "an invisible turn to a new economic strategy." No one but Chernomyrdin was capable of discerning that invisible turn, Glazyev said.

In Glazyev's view, "Chernomyrdin and Chubays are aiming for the final division of property between representatives of privileged clans."

Media Issues

INTERFAX, Kozyrev Charges Against Radio Viewed

MK2810151195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Volkov: "INTERFAX and Andrey Kozyrev Have Accused Radio Liberty of Lying. The Minister's Visit to the News Agency Will Result in Legal Proceedings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The INTERFAX news agency and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev have decided to sue Radio Liberty "for broadcasting inaccurate information of a slanderous nature." The report on this matter, wired by the agency itself, says that the radio station broadcast information on Mr. Kozyrev's visit to an INTERFAX office that contained "statements not corresponding to reality, to put it mildly." The information broadcast by Radio Liberty, with reference to its own source in INTERFAX, said that Andrey Kozyrev, during his two-hour conversation with journalists of "an authoritative Russian news agency" (the name of INTERFAX was not mentioned) on Wednesday, 18 October, "rather harshly criticized his patron, President Yeltsin, claiming that the Kremlin — having no clear-cut strategy of its actions in the foreign political arena and not knowing itself what it wants — is to be blamed for all of Moscow's foreign policy failures." While so saying, according to Radio Liberty, the minister "insisted on the conversation not being made public." The broadcast report was later printed by VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA.

The management of INTERFAX said that the Radio Liberty report was true to reality only in the fact that its office was indeed visited by the minister on the evening of 18 October. INTERFAX General Director Mikhail Komissar told SEGODNYA that Andrey Kozyrev's visit to the INTERFAX office was no secret, since it was on the minister's agenda. Therefore, it was not difficult to find out what agency was meant in the Radio Liberty report, and journalists and officials started to turn to the agency for clarification.

INTERFAX made clear that Mr. Kozyrev held neither a press conference nor a "closed briefing" at its office; he was mainly getting acquainted with the technology of news transmission and retrieval by the agency's customers. In Mr. Komissar's words, relations between Mr. Kozyrev and Boris Yeltsin were not discussed: "Kozyrev said nothing of the kind." Mr. Komissar hypothesized that "Radio Liberty, for some reason unknown for me, wanted to cause a clash between Kozyrev and the president," or "someone was trying to put Kozyrev in jeopardy via Radio Liberty." Mr.

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Komissar said that, after the broadcast material was published in the Russian press, the agency contacted Radio Liberty's Moscow office and demanded that a denial be broadcast. According to Mr. Komissar, however, the agency's demand was refused. After this, INTERFAX, and later Andrey Kozyrev himself, decided to go to court, asking, in Mr. Komissar's words, "a very well-known Russian lawyer" for help.

Yuriy Gendler, head of the Radio Liberty Russian Service, told SEGODNYA that the radio station would react officially "when we see the petition to sue," and added that he was "extremely curious" as to the contents of this as yet nonexistent document. Expressing his personal opinion, he said that this was "one of the funniest episodes" he had ever experienced. He believes that the information broadcast "was delivered in a tone sympathetic to Kozyrev," and he does not understand where in the report the would-be claimants saw its "slanderous nature." Mr. Gendler said that he, "as a journalist, wonders how Mr. Kozyrev, after he had been seriously criticized" by the president, "found time to visit an information agency." He expressed doubt as to the fact that Andrey Kozyrev came to INTERFAX in order to simply "have a look at how the computers work." He said that "it is impossible to believe that none of the professional journalists in this information agency asked Kozyrev about his reaction to the criticism expressed in recent weeks." Mr. Gendler emphasized that INTERFAX was not mentioned in the broadcast report at all, and "any guesswork is no matter for legal proceedings." He said that he considered the actions of INTERFAX unethical and added: "We subscribe to this agency. We thought its information was trustworthy. If it, however, on one occasion, shows neglect for ethical journalistic principles, how then can we trust it on other occasions?" Mr. Gendler said that Radio Liberty was going "to discuss very seriously the question of whether the subscription to INTERFAX should be given up altogether." It is yet unclear whether the radio station intends to initiate a counter-suit, but if it indeed decides to do so, according to Mr. Gendler, it will bring the matter to court "in an English-speaking country where INTERFAX wires its information."

Indeed, the visit of Andrey Kozyrev — who is in a delicate political situation and, in addition, is running for the Duma — to an information agency was obviously a risky move. Regardless of what was in reality discussed there, the conflict between Radio Liberty and INTERFAX demonstrates clearly that ministers and prominent politicians should strive to make their actions as transparent as possible and not venture any exclusivity in relations with the mass media — or, if they do so, there ought to be a sure guarantee that other media will not learn anything about it.

Finance Ministry Demands Apology From Press

LD2710184095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Finance Ministry demanded formal apologies in the press from organisers of the Russian financial market conference which is planned to be held by the London-based Adam Smith Institute and from the editorial board of KOMMERSANT-DAILY newspaper.

An advertisement ran by the KOMMERSANT-DAILY on October 24 said that Bella Zlatkis, head of the department of securities and financial market, will address the conference. There were, however, no preliminary arrangements between B. Zlatkis and the Adam Smith Institute for her delivering a report at the conference, ITAR-TASS learnt from the Russian Finance Ministry. Chiefs of the Ministry have not given consent to the participation of any of its high officials in the function.

Despite the earlier warnings, the Adam Smith Institute continues the practice of unsanctioned use of prestigious names of Russian experts and officials for advertising purposes. This practice is incompatible with the ethnic of business, it is believed in the Finance Ministry.

Chiefs of the Russian Finance Ministry said that staffers of the Ministry will not be taking part in functions held by the Adam Smith Institute. The Central Bank of Russia, the Economics Ministry and other Russian economic agencies, as well as the British Embassy in Moscow and the Russian Embassy in London have been informed of this decision.

Military & Space Issues

Military Discontent 'Dangerous' for Ailing Yeltsin

MK2710125095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Korotchenko under the "SOS" rubric: "President's Illness. U.S. Visit Appears To Have Had a Negative Impact on Boris Yeltsin's Health"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday afternoon it transpired from sources close to top presidential aide Viktor Ilyushin that Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin had been taken to the Central Clinical Hospital [CCH] with acute ischemia. The presidential press service refused to comment on this information, making it clear, however, that an official statement on the state of Boris Yeltsin's health might be made later in the evening.

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Presidential Security Service [SBP] sources confirmed that the president had been hospitalized, saying, however, that Boris Yeltsin's life was not in danger. Throughout Yeltsin's journey from his country residence to the CCH, where he was taken by helicopter, he was accompanied by SBP chief Lieutenant General Aleksandr Korzhakov. According to SBP officers, no extra changes were made to day-to-day security arrangements for Boris Yeltsin's protection. The SBP has plans for ensuring the security of the person they protect in all kinds of emergencies, including when the president is taken to the CCH for medical treatment.

Information channels to Boris Yeltsin, including reports on the situation in the country and in the world, remain unchanged, although recommendations made by the doctors treating Yeltsin regarding the organization of his work agenda and his upcoming travel schedule (apparently his visit to China will be canceled, and a question mark hangs over his visit to Norway) will be taken into account. When asked by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA whether at a time of the president's temporary incapacity there is a threat that power could be usurped by certain Russian officials of the highest rank, the SBP responded that it has all the facilities necessary to prevent such a situation from coming about.

Meanwhile, the absence from Moscow of Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, who is on an official visit to the United States, does not add to stability in the Russian capital. In that connection he can be expected to cut short his stay in the United States and return ahead of schedule to the Russian Federation, where servicemen's discontent with their material situation is beginning to take forms dangerous for the authorities. At the General Staff, for instance, the payment of cash compensation for food rations has been delayed since July — a situation that has prompted audible antigovernment utterances among officers. A similar situation is coming about in combat units, including units deployed close to Moscow. In principle, even the most insignificant pretext would be enough to cause an explosion in the situation.

Military Calls On Duma To Raise Defense Expenditure

LD2710224295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The traditional "government hour" in the State Duma Friday was devoted to financing the state defense order and next year's proposed military expenditures, sources close to the Defense Ministry told INTERFAX. First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin called on deputies "to correct the situation with unsatisfactory military expenditure."

According to Kokoshin, Russia's military expenditure should reach at least 5 to 6 percent of its GDP, "to ensure a worthy life for the armed forces and rescue the defense industry."

(At present, expenditure stands at a little over 3 percent of GDP — IF note).

Many developed countries of the world are increasing their defense expenditure, Kokoshin stated. The main competition is in creation of future arms, he added.

Kokoshin was confident that Russia has enough research and production potential to occupy a worthy place among the world's leading nations in this area.

However, sufficient funding is essential to preserve the technological potential which allows the country to produce unrivalled arms.

Kokoshin said up to 70% of budget allocations for defense was used for social needs. "We have military towns, whose population is three quarters pensioners. If we stop financing the social expenditure of the army and the fleet, they will be doomed to death," he added.

Kokoshin and Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Astakhov told deputies of measures the government is taking to improve the situation.

Army Seen Well Stocked for Winter Despite Debts

LD3010110595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's military districts owe their food, heat and electricity suppliers more than 1.7 trillion roubles (some 380 million dollars), Lieutenant General Vladimir Kutuzov, the Russian land forces' logistics chief, told ITAR-TASS today commenting on the end of the pre-winter procurement efforts.

The general, who said that "even remote garrisons beyond the polar circle, in Siberia and the Far East are now well stocked in vegetables and foodstuffs for the coming winter," blamed inadequate funding for the mounting arrears.

"The (land forces') outstanding debts for communal services and electricity supplies alone now amount to more than one trillion roubles, and they owe a further 85 billion roubles to the suppliers of fuel and lubricants," the general said.

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Inadequate funding can make the situation even worse next year unless "the country's parliament and politicians decide in advance on adequate funding of the armed forces, preceding from the normatives and state interests," the general said.

"Logistics specialists rake their brains every day to devise better ways of supplying the armed forces with food and creating acceptable conditions for combat training and everyday life, but our efforts are not always backed by parliament members and politicians," he said.

The draft federal budget for next year, if approved in its present form, will lead to irregular disbursement of money to the troops, which will entail further accumulation of debts and destabilisation of the situation in the garrisons, the general said.

Defense Ministry Launches Experimental Missile

LD2710201095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite financial difficulties, Russian arms manufacturers continue to surprise the world with unheard of achievements in the defense sphere. [video captioned "Military TV" shows a military vehicle, military officials, a missile being launched]

A brand-new experimental classified operational-tactical missile has been launched at the state central test ground of the Defense Ministry. The testing was carried out under the command of Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Kolesnikov recording] I can say with confidence that this is the weapon of the 21st century. [end recording]

The mobile missile complex is notable for its unprecedented accuracy, high reliability, and is easiness to control. In addition, the new weapon designed by our scientists fully meets the requirements of the Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. The complex has been constructed in line with Russia's military and technical policy and will be used by the ground forces in two years.

[Begin A. Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, recording] There is every ground to say that this system has many unique features. [end recording]

Federal Assembly

Shumeyko Drafts Law on Forming Federation Council

LD2710172195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko has drafted a law "On the Rules of Forming the Federation Council."

He produced the bill on instructions from the upper house of the Russian parliament given to him on October 25 after the house turned down the version of the law adopted by the State Duma on October 11.

Under the new draft law the Federation Council shall consist of Russian citizens representing federal bodies of state power (no more than five) and two representatives from state bodies of power of Russia's member-entities.

Federation Council members from federal bodies of state power are appointed by the president for a term of no more than four years. The newly-elected president can extend their powers for no more than four years.

The bill says that state bodies of power of Russia's member-entities are represented by the leaders of legislative (representative) and executive authorities or the heads of Russian member-entities. The rules of delegating representatives to the Federation Council from each individual member-entity of Russia are established by the laws of that entity. The tenure of office of Federation Council members shall be no longer than the tenure of local bodies of power they are members of.

The bill says that "Federation Council members can take part in Federation Council sessions by proxy."

An early termination of powers of the Federation Council's members is possible no earlier than one year after he is elected.

The Federation Council will begin to be formed no earlier than December 12 1995.

"We must think not about time-serving political gains, but about how Russia will develop," Shumeyko said. He was speaking at a session of the Coordinating Council for cooperation between the Federal Assembly's houses, on the one hand, and legislative (representative) bodies of power, on the other. It took place in Moscow on Friday and was chaired by Shumeiko.

The Coordinating Council decided to distribute the bill among Russia's member-entities for discussion. The Federation Council is expecting replies by November 10 and it will consider the bill again on November 14.

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Duma Overrides Council Law Veto

LD2710183995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1443 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma on Friday overrode the veto of the upper house of the Russian Parliament imposed on Wednesday on the second version of the law on forming the Federation Council.

The law was passed in the former wording that had earlier been endorsed by the Duma and was sent to the President for the signing. As many as 309 MPs voted for the law with one abstention and one deputy voting against.

The first version of the law on forming the Federation council was passed by both houses of the Federal Assembly last summer and was rejected by the Russian president as unconstitutional. The law suggested electing to the Federation Council representatives of subjects of the Russian Federation. Meanwhile, the Constitution says the house should be formed of representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, subjects of the Russian Federation.

On October 11, the State Duma passed the new version of the law. It says that the Federation Council is formed of elected heads of the legislative and executive authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation.

Subjects of the Russian Federation that have no elected heads of executive bodies, presidents or other high officials were recommended to elect them within eight months. This provision of the document evoked sharp protests of some members of the Federation Council. After that the document was turned down by the upper house of the Russian parliament. However, the Duma today succeeded in overriding the veto of the Federation Council.

The document will be referred to the Russian president for the signing.

Shumeyko To Ask Yeltsin To Veto Law

LD2710192895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko said today that he intends to ask the president to veto a draft bill on the formation of the Federation Council endorsed by the State Duma today.

On Friday, the State Duma has overruled a veto imposed by the Federation Council on the order of the formation of the upper chamber. "However, the resolution passed by the State Duma has failed to make Shumeyko change his mind on this problem," a spokesman for the Federation Council, Yuri Argunov, told ITAR-TASS today.

A different draft bill on the formation of the Federation Council has been worked out and submitted to the coordination council coordinating the activities of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly. The coordination council decided to send a new draft bill for approval to subjects of the Russian Federation which will delegate its candidates to the Federation Council.

Taking into account that a concept of the formation of the Federation Council suggested by Shumeyko has been approved by the coordination council, Shumeyko intends to appeal to the Russian president, asking him to veto the draft bill adopted by the State Duma.

Veto of Conscription Amendments Remains in Force

LD2710133595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council's veto on the Duma-approved amendments and supplements to the law "On Military Duty and Military Service" remains in force. The Duma again failed to override it today.

These amendments and supplements, envisage, in particular, that the term of service in the armed forces is to be increased from 1.5 to two years only for those who are called up after October 1, 1995. Moreover, the Duma wanted to fix a 1.5-year term of duty for servicemen, who had taken part in armed conflicts, and to restore the call-up postponements for young people, who have a single parent aged above 50.

Trying to convince the MPs to override the Federation Council's veto today, Chairman of the Duma's Defence Committee Sergey Yushenkov said he would voluntarily step down from the post of Head of the Committee if the Council's amendments were nevertheless adopted. However, his statement was neglected by the MPs.

Nevertheless, the Duma today adopted a decision to address an interpellation to the Russian Constitutional Court concerning the timelimits for the Federation Council's consideration of the amendments and supplements to the Military Service Law. The Council failed to discuss these amendments and supplements within

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Constitution-stipulated 14 days, and vetoed them only after 77 days. Many MPs believe that the Federation Council had thereby violated the Constitution, because, having remained unconsidered for 14 days, the amendments and supplements to the law should have been automatically forwarded to the President to be signed.

Duma Rejection of Immunity Amendment Viewed

MM3010123895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Escape Into Politics: People Running for State Duma Are Protected by Their Accreditation as Prospective People's Deputies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The criminalization of the State Duma, including the future one, is proceeding apace. The desire to figure on the lists of candidates is proving irresistible to those who also figure on records of interrogation, indictments, and other such documents. The escape into politics is becoming an escape from the imprisonment which inevitably awaits lawbreakers if they are not protected by a seat in parliament or at least — for a short while — by accreditation as prospective deputies.

The attempt to expel representatives of the criminal world from this, as it were, specially constructed refuge for them was made by the State Duma last Wednesday. Yabloko Deputy Grigoriy Bondarev tried to amend the Law "On the Basic Guarantees of Russian Federation Citizens' Electoral Rights" whereby candidate immunity ceases to apply to candidates from the moment they are under arrest or an arrest warrant is issued against them. The amendment failed. It was opposed, in particular, by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, whose electoral list numbered 12 criminals until recently. And, what is more, the Ministry of Internal Affairs's preventive measures have been implemented in a purely formal and bureaucratic way: Those who are saved from criminal responsibility today by deputy or candidate deputy immunity are completely absent from the "blacklist" submitted to the Central Electoral Commission, which contains gangsters who have spent time in prison side by side with former dissidents, rapists who have served their time, and people convicted of entrepreneurial activity in the seventies. The Omsk incident is a case in point.

Of course, a suspect is only potentially guilty, while someone seeking a seat in the Duma is no more than a potential deputy. But while the former is protected by the law (the presumption of innocence) the latter is protected from the law. This verdict delivered by Russian parliamentarians has guaranteed them and their successors the freedom not only to make the law but also to escape from prosecution by it.

Duma Rejects Draft on More Public Election Control

LD2710212895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma, parliament's lower chamber, today rejected the draft law providing for greater public control over elections and on openness in summarizing election results.

Author of the draft Anatoliy Lukyanov said the document guaranteed public control over the elections and the calculation of votes on the day of voting and the following day. The draft also provides for the presence of observers from public organizations and citizens at polling districts. The draft envisages optional controlling calculations of votes in some polling districts.

One of the arguments against the draft law's adoption was that the election campaign has already begun and the existing standards for electoral control, "the rules of the game," cannot be changed.

The State Duma also decided to apply to the Central Electoral Commission in order to clarify the situation concerning the election day: December 17.

State Duma deputy Anatoliy Lukyanov initiated the request. He said he had information proving that the Central Electoral Commission was discussing the possibility of not submitting to public organizations copies of lists with calculated voting results. Lukyanov said the Central Electoral Commission was tacitly sending such an instruction to local commissions.

State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin said a corresponding request should be immediately drawn up and be sent to the Central Electoral Commission.

The State Duma proposed that the Russian Constitutional Court decide on the constitutionality of the Federation Council's decision to reject the law on amendments to the Russian Criminal Procedure Code. As many as 227 Duma deputies voted in favor of submitting such an inquiry to the Constitutional Court.

The State Duma passed the law on amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code on July 20, 1995. The Federation Council, parliament's upper chamber, considered and turned down the law only on October 4, after the constitutional two-month time-limit expired.

The State Duma instructed the Russian government to draw up and submit to President Boris Yeltsin for

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approval the list of information considered as state secrets before November 20, 1995.

Chairman of the State Duma Security Committee Vladimir Ilyukhin said such a register was necessary because "information which constitutes state secrets" still "is not appropriately protected" which "seriously affects Russia's security."

The federal law on state secrets, under which the president is to approve the government-composed register of secret information, came into effect on July 21, 1993. However, the government has not so far drawn up this list and "law enforcement bodies have no legal basis for ensuring the country's security," the State Duma said.

Duma Votes For Joining 1972 Protocol on Drugs

LD2710203395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1649 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma on Friday voted for Russia's joining the 1972 protocol on drugs.

The protocol on amendments to the 1961 convention on drugs was adopted by a diplomatic conference in Geneva in 1972 and came into force in August 1975. The amendments mainly called for tougher control of drug production.

The State Duma voted for the amendments and for an appropriate federal bill which is to be submitted to the Federation Council for approval.

Bela Denisenko, Chairwoman of the Committee for Health Care, who outlined the bill to the deputies, said that the document provided for additional measures against illegal drug trafficking, in particular it calls for extradition of criminals and social rehabilitation of drug addicts. She also said that the former Soviet Union had not joined the protocol because of "peculiar political considerations of the moment".

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Military, Negotiations, Economy

Chechen Commanders Seek Separate Peace

LD3010122495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — Russian military sources in Chechnya said some Chechen field commanders sought separate peace accords with Moscow.

The commanders were looking for contacts with the Russian military command in the region, the sources told INTERFAX.

Thus, the commander of Chechen forces in the region's southeast, Sultan Geliskhanov, offered to start talks with the Russian command and sign with it a bilateral agreement to apply to the territory under his control, the sources said. They quoted him as saying the only result of military confrontation would be new deaths.

Khozhayev: No Separate Deals by Commanders

LD3010122295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "Any field commander doing a separate peace deal with the federal authorities will be regarded as a traitor by the Chechen nation. Any attempts at this are doomed to fail and will not be supported by the rank and file of the Chechen armed formations," Dalkhan Khozhayev, a member of the Special Observer Commission at the talks in Groznyy, told ITAR-TASS today.

He denied some media reports quoting unofficial sources as saying that Sultan Geliskhanov, the commander of Dudayev's forces on the so-called southeast front, intends to bypass Dzhokhar Dudayev and conclude a bilateral peace agreement with the command of the Joint Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya. "I met Geliskhanov a few days ago and he said nothing about such plans," Khozhayev said.

At the press office of the Joint Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya, ITAR-TASS was told that the pro-Dudayev side's proclaimed unanimity was an illusion. Field commanders have been seen to try to go it alone and break away from Dudayev before, especially last summer when the fighting was at its height.

A press office spokesman also stressed that Russia "will welcome any moves toward disarmament and removing military confrontation, both in the Chechen republic as a whole and in individual parts of it."

Mikhaylov: Russia May Resume War

LD2710141395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — A Russian minister signaled on Friday that Moscow might resume hostilities in Chechnya.

Whether or not Russia would go back to war depends on whether Chechen rebels continue armed assaults on Russian troops, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, leader of

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Russian delegates negotiating with the separatist forces, told a news conference in Moscow.

He said that, while Russian and separatist representatives met daily at a special commission appointed to monitor a Russian-Chechen military accord, their contacts might be severed if the rebels committed "gross violations" of the agreement. "It is difficult to conduct negotiations when people are being killed," he added.

Mikhaylov suggested that political aspects of settling the conflict be dealt with within Chechnya and called for a roundtable to bring together all political forces in the region.

He said Russian negotiators passed to their Chechen counterparts copies of power-sharing agreements between Moscow and the Russian republics of Tatarstan and Yakutia. "The documents are being studied with interest," he said.

Lobov: Rebels Plan To Renew Fighting

LD2710141095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Presidential envoy to Chechnya and Secretary of Russia's Security Council Oleg Lobov says the federal authorities have evidence indicating that Chechen rebels are planning to resume large scale military operations in the republic.

In an interview with INTERFAX, he said measures were being taken to try to prevent a renewed flare up of fighting in Chechnya. He said it was decided to beef up Russian troop positions to frustrate any desire to attack them.

Lobov said the question of tighter security of Russian army convoys would be discussed and plans were under way to get recently-formed local police units enforce law and order more vigorously there.

At the same time, he said the federal authorities were making efforts to try and restart the negotiating process in Chechnya and would do everything possible to prevent major confrontation there.

Rebels May Have Chlorine, Prussic Acid

LD2910144095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — Head of Russian Chemical Warfare Troops Stanislav Petrov says Chechen separatist forces may have stocks of chlorine and prussic acid which were used as chemical weapons in the First World War.

In an interview with INTERFAX he said the two substances were widely used in the chemicals industry and any attack on related facilities could lead to poisoning and loss of life.

At the same time, Petrov denied that the rebels were in possession of toxic agents which could be qualified as chemical weapons today. He spoke of security being tightened around army chemical weapons stores.

Seven Russian Hostages Released

LD2810151495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Seven servicemen of federal troops, taken hostage by Chechen militants on October 24, have been released late on Friday, ITAR-TASS learned from the Press and Information Department of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The incident occurred last Tuesday when an APC collided with a Zhiguli-Sedan car near the village of Vedeno in Chechnya. As a result of the accident one man was killed and two others injured.

The road accident was followed by a chain of tragic developments. The APC driver fell victim to an improvised court martial and a group of servicemen was taken hostage.

Shkirko: Roshni-Chu Bombers Still Unknown

LD2710223495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya, still does not know who carried out an air strike against the Chechen village of Roshni-Chu on 15 October.

Asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on conclusions drawn by the investigation team, which confirmed the shelling, General Shkirko said: "No one is denying the fact of the shelling. The question is: Who did it? I do not yet know the answer to this question. As far as I know, neither does the investigation team."

The commander is not playing down the importance of the investigation, but he believes it is necessary to look forward and not backward. "If one is going to concentrate on grievances, incidents of violence and revenge, there will be no progress in achieving a goal. This is a deadlock, and only by thinking ahead will we be able to break it. We have a common goal: to ensure peace and stability in Chechnya."

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Maskhadov: No Talks Without Guarantees

AU2710160195 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Groznyy, Russia, Oct 27 (AFP) — Thousands of Chechens, many waving the green separatist flag, demonstrated in Groznyy Friday to mark the fourth anniversary of Dzhokhar Dudayev's election as president of the breakaway Caucasus republic.

Russian forces halted buses carrying demonstrators about 10 kilometres (six miles) south of the city, forcing the passengers to walk the rest of the way.

About 2,000 people converged on the city centre where the ruins of the presidential palace stand as a reminder of the massive winter bombardment of the Chechen capital by Russian forces.

Chechen separatist military commander Aslan Maskhadov ruled out a resumption of full peace negotiations in the near future.

Although Russian-Chechen "working meetings" have been held in the past few days, Maskhadov told AFP that "a resumption of the peace talks is only possible if Russian forces provide guarantees that they will not launch new military operations."

Maskhadov said eight Russian soldiers were still being held by separatist forces after an ambush Tuesday in the southeastern region of Vedeno in which 19 Russian troops were killed and seven wounded. [passage omitted]

Yarikhanov, Dudayev Meeting Reported

LD2710185695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Chechen chief negotiator at talks with the federal authorities on settlement in Chechnya Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov said he had met with Dzhokhar Dudayev this morning.

Yarikhanov told INTERFAX in an interview that "Dudayev is in good shape and even makes physical exercises every morning."

Dudayev's supporters on October 27 are celebrating the fourth anniversary of his election as the Chechen president.

"The foundation of the Chechen state was laid during Dudayev's rule and this is our main achievement," Yarikhanov said. He said that under the election law, the presidential term of Dudayev expires on October 27. "However, Dudayev's supporters consider it impossible to hold elections given the presence of federal troops in the republic," Yarikhanov said. "That is why he [Dudayev] remains the president of the Chechen Republic," Yarikhanov said.

Deputy Chechen chief negotiator at talks with Moscow Said-Khasan Abumuslimov told INTERFAX in Groznyy today that "there is no issue of extending the powers of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev today." He explained that under the Chechen parliament's decision made soon after federal troops were brought to the republic, the powers of existing Chechen bodies of power had been extended until full normalization of the situation in Chechnya. Abumuslimov ruled out the possibility of holding elections in Chechnya "in the period of Russia's aggression against Chechnya and the establishment of a military occupation regime."

Moscow still does not recognize the powers of Dudayev in Chechnya. Russia considers the Chechen government headed by Doku Zavgayev as the only legitimate authority in the Caucasian republic.

Volskiy Remarks on Talks

LD2810162495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Chief Chechen negotiator Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov refuses to confirm what deputy chief Russian negotiator Arkadiy Volskiy said on the early resumption of the peace talks in Groznyy.

According to Yarikhanov, "there has been no formal agreement on the resumption of the negotiations broken off after the October 6 attempt on the life of federal troops commander Anatoliy Romanov."

The two negotiating teams held a working meeting Wednesday to voice "willingness to resume the dialog and search for a non-violent settlement."

The Dudayev delegation to the peace talks keeps insisting that Moscow offer reliable guarantees for its promise to refrain from resuming combat action.

Mikhaylov Discusses Talks With Zorin

LD2710153095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, minister of affairs of nationalities and regional policy of the Russian Federation, and Vladimir Zorin, first deputy territorial director of executive power agencies in Chechnya, gave a news conference in Moscow today on the situation in Chechnya.

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Our correspondent [R. Babayan] reports:

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] In the framework of the Special Observer Committee, with regard to the bloc of military issues we are ready to meet with representatives of Dudayev with whom we signed the agreement. As far as the bloc of political issues is concerned, and this was also (?said), a wide dialogue and a roundtable should be held here. I think that the future of the talks process consists in keeping this dialogue, these talks as talks of an inter-Chechen nature. [end recording]

This opinion was expressed by Vyacheslav Mikhaylov today in Moscow at a meeting with journalists. He said that the Supreme Council has already been restored in Chechnya and it has been agreed that it will collaborate with the National Reconciliation Committee. This makes it quite possible to conduct an inter-Chechen dialogue. However, Mikhaylov is seriously concerned about the ongoing terrorist acts, regular shellings, and attacks on federal forces' units. As is known, following the latest incident in Vedeno in Chechnya, the Russian delegation made a tough statement addressed to the Chechen side. However, no answer has been received as yet.

[Begin Mikhaylov recording] Maskhadov said that they did not know what had happened. [end recording]

[Announcer] Vyacheslav Mikhaylov warned Aslan Maskhadov that if he is not capable of controlling the situation, then the Russian military representatives will continue contacts with separate field commanders who want to resolve the problem of disarmanent.

Mikhaylov on Delays in Draft of Treaty

LD2710135095 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "Versions of the treaty on the demarcation of powers between Russia and the Chechen Republic have been given to all interested parties — from Yarikhanov's delegation to the delegation of the government of the Chechen Republic," Vladimir Zorin, deputy head of the territorial directorate of bodies of executive power in Chechnya, told the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

He said that "the logic itself of the objective development of events will move us toward a peaceful solution, although there will still be difficulties, there will be Argun and Vedeno, but no one can stop the peace process."

V. Zorin stressed that "Dudayev's formations are not resolving the population's economic problems."

"Work on the treaty should have been started earlier and the federal authorities made a mistake in this," Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, minister of affairs of nationalities and regional policy of the Russian Federation, told Ekho Moskvy radio station.

He said "consultations are needed now to establish what we understand as being under general responsibilities and what is under individual responsibilities."

Kulikov: 'Constitutional Law' Restored

LD2810180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov said that "the restoration of constitutional law in Chechnya can be spoken of" after the appointment of Doku Zavgayev as the prime minister of the Chechen Government of National Revival.

Kulikov stressed in an interview with INTERFAX in Moscow today that this was his personal opinion.

After Zavgayev's appointment "political talks should be held with the new leader of the government rather than with representatives of Dudayev whose presidential powers expired on October 27," Kulikov said.

Kulikov said talks on military issues within the scope of the Special Observer Commission should be conducted with field commanders rather than with Dudayev's representatives. "There is certain progress: Field commanders come themselves and offer their services," Kulikov said.

Kulikov said he was in favor of amending the July 30 military agreement. He said the agreement's provision on defense of populated areas by self-defense units should be amended. He said federal troops should have an opportunity to create in populated areas police units which would be smaller than local self-defense units.

"The Russian police and Chechen residents are able to maintain public order and security in populated areas on their own," Kulikov said.

Ignoring Dudayev at Talks Recommended

LD2810182895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two Russian servicemen were killed and five wounded in Chechnya over the past 24 hours. [passage omitted]

In an interview with INTERFAX today, Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, the head of Dudayev's delegation at the

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Chechen peace talks, denied the statement made by Arkadiy Volskiy that the talks were to resume next week. Yarikhanov said that at a working meeting of the delegations' heads on Wednesday, only a mutual readiness was voiced to continue the dialogue.

Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov made an interesting statement today. He said that following the appointment of Doku Zavgayev as the head of the Chechen government of National Rebirth, one can say that the constitutional system has been restored in the republic. He thinks that now the talks should be held not with the representatives of Dudayev whose presidential powers ended on 27 October, but with the new head of government.

While cadres are being reshuffled in the new Groznyy administration, the Chechen terrorist Shamil Basayev continues to receive journalists and give interviews. Recently a foreign media group visited him.

[Begin Basayev recording] Since Budennovsk I have not killed anyone. It may seem somehow unusual to you, but every day that I spend without killing the invaders here, on my territory, I count as a wasted day. [end recording]

Zorin Not Confirming Possible Appointment

LD2810163195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — First deputy head of the Russian federal civilian administration in Chechnya Vladimir Zorin failed to confirm media allegations about his possible appointment to the head of the federal civilian administration in Chechnya.

Zorin told INTERFAX in an interview at the Groznyy airport on his arrival from Moscow Saturday that he had met with the head of the federal civilian administration in Chechnya, Nikolay Semenov, "who feels very well."

Zorin said he had urgently left for Groznyy "because of the deterioration of the situation in Chechnya." He said he had failed to take part in the conference of the Our Home is Russia movement because of the situation in Chechnya. The conference takes place in Moscow today.

Zorin is a candidate to the State Duma from the Our Home is Russia electoral bloc. He runs for the Russian parliament from a single-mandate constituency in Chechnya.

With regard to the meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chairman of the Chechen Government of National Revival Doku Zavgayev in Moscow Friday, Zorin said Zavgayev had advanced many interesting proposals regarding political, economic and social aspects of settlement in Chechnya.

When asked about his attitude towards possible transformation of the talks on settlement in Chechnya between representatives of the federal authorities and Dudayev's supporters into inter-Chechen dialogue, Zorin said Zavgayev favored the most active participation of the Chechen parliament and the National Revival Government in these talks.

Zorin sa: Zavgayev intended to return to Groznyy from Moscow n the near future.

Mikhaylov Denies Semenov Fired

LD2710200595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — Media speculations about the possible sacking of Nikolay Semenov as the head of the territorial branch of the federal executive in Chechnya were denied today by Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhaylov.

"Semenov's absence from Chechnya lately is in no way related to a possible replacement, no decisions on replacement have been made," the minister told ITAR-TASS.

"Semenov is currently on leave, and the duties of the head of the territorial branch of the federal executive in Chechnya are being temporarily done by his first deputy Vladimir Zorin," Mikhaylov said.

The minister told ITAR-TASS that Vladimir Zorin had also been appointed deputy leader of the Russian governmental delegation to talks on the peaceful settlement in Chechnya. The promotion was expected to make the delegation's work more productive through Zorin's more intense involvement in the on-going consultations and working meetings, particularly since earlier Zorin headed the group of political experts at the talks in Groznyy.

As concerns Arkadiy Volskiy, he will carry on as another deputy leader of the Russian governmental delegation to talks on the peaceful settlement in Chechnya, Mikhaylov pointed out.

Asked about the role played in Chechnya by Groznyy Mayor Beslan Gantemirov, Dudayev's main opponent, Mikhaylov replied that "Gantemirov's young age, energy and great organisational talents must be used more

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rationally — not only in the economic but also in the political sphere."

Mikhaylov also expressed the hope that former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov would play a constructive role in the Chechen settlement. The minister said Khasbulatov was eager to help and had a number of useful proposals for preparing and holding elections in the republic.

Mikhaylov said work was underway to consolidate constructive forces in Chechnya. The republic's parliament, the National reconciliation committee and the National revival government must undertake to organise the process, the Russian minister said.

He added that Khasbulatov had been offered a high post in the National reconciliation committee, and federal authorities were looking for other versions of cooperation with Khasbulatov within the framework of roundtable discussions.

Premiers Agree on Recovery Plan

LD2710202095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The prime ministers of Russia and Chechnya agreed to jointly develop a complex program to restore Chechnya's economy for 1996, Chechen Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev told INTERFAX Friday. He said this process will necessitate some 20 trillion rubles next year.

Zavgayev said Chernomyrdin promised that the budget will provide everything necessary for restoration.

According to Zavgayev, the program should prioritize creation of new jobs, as the republic is experiencing "acute unemployment."

Commenting on the continuing terrorist acts in Chechnya, Zavgayev said not only Chechen citizens organized them. "The three detained terrorists who threw a grenade into the builders' hostel Wednesday are not residents of Chechnya," he added.

"One of them is Latvian citizen, while the other two are residents of Dagestan. They were hired to carry out terrorist acts and received money for it," he underlined.

Zavgayev said "the party of war in Chechnya is small but battle-worthy, while the party of peace includes all people."

Zavgayev was confident that President Yeltsin's illness would not affect the peace process in the republic.

"The president's position is well-known, he is a supporter of peaceful settlement of the issue and he initiated the peace process. Of course, it is a pity that he is not at work now," he added.

Asked when Chechnya will see elections, he said first conditions must be created to allow truly democratic and free elections. "I do not see such conditions emerging today or within the next month," he added.

Soskovets Cited on Restoration

LD2810111595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 28 Oct 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, 28 Oct (TAR-TASS)— "It is planned to restore the social sphere and major industrial enterprises in Chechnya next year," first Vice-premier Oleg Soskovets said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Saturday.

The vice-premier noted that federal departments have already requested 5,000 billion roubles for restoration of the republican economy. It will be remembered that the 1996 draft budget provides only for 2,000 billion roubles for restoration work.

On the other hand, the Russian president's plenipotentiary in Chechnya Oleg Lobov, speaking in an interview with ITAR-TASS, estimated expenses for restoration work in Chechnya in 1996 at 20,000-25,000 billion roubles.

Soskovets favoured granting "greater independence to the Chechen government." He noted that "the republican government has no chance to govern fully restoration process when it lacks financial and material resources. Moscow does not see everything what is taking place there".

According to the vice-premier, Moscow continues crediting Chechnya with energy resources. Some 80 percent of electricity was supplied free to the republic from neighbouring regions.

Chechnya To Receive More Humanitarian Aid

LD2810120795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 28 Oct 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, 28 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — One of priority tasks of Chechnya is to restore its medical centres in the year ahead, Chechen Health Minister Akhmed Sadayev said at a meeting with delegates of international humanitarian agencies here today.

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He said the federal government has been increasing allocations for the restoration scheme. Increasingly more hospitals are being re-opened, he said.

Sadayev acknowledged assistance to Chechenya from the International Red Cross Committee, Rescue Committee and other international organisations who facilitate rapid help to people whose housing was destroyed and health affected by the war.

It was stated at the meeting that the humanitarian agencies have been regularly sending to Chechnya drugs, baby food and hospital equipment.

The meeting mapped out measures to coordinate the relief efforts with the restoration programme of federal authorities.

Mikhaylov on Oil Transport Problem

LD2910175495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — A Russian minister said a suggestion by Moscow that a pipeline to transport oil from Azerbaijan to the West be laid through Chechnya's territory was based on the "territorial integrity of Russia" principle.

Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, leader of Russian delegates negotiating with the Chechen rebels, told INTERFAX the oil transportation problem could be taken up by the negotiators as one of the issues they are discussing.

A top Chechen military commander, asked whether the rebels would resort to sabotage against the pipeline if it ran through Chechnya, said he could give "99.9-percent assurances that that is not the way we put the matter." The rebels' future moves depended on how the situation developed in the region and would be based on the "expediency" principle, Isa Astamirov told INTERFAX.

Federal Group Finishes in Ossetian Conflict Zone

LD2810161095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The working group made up of deputy chiefs of 15 federal ministries and departments, returned to Moscow from the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict today.

The group spent three days in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict in order to see the situation first-hand.

"A comprehensive program of political and economic measures was drawn up for implementing the Russian president's decrees on fully normalizing life in the region hit by the conflict," deputy head of the working group, Russian Deputy Minister for Nationalities Valeriy Shamshurov told INTERFAX before leaving Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia.

"The program provides for intensifying cooperation between the governments of North Ossetia and Ingushetia and accelerating the restoration operation in the conflict zone," Shamshurov said. He said the Russian government would discuss the results of the working group's performance at a special session. He said the working group would propose that the Russian government budget 605 billion rubles for the restoration operation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

Shamshurov said the restoration operation in the conflict zone was currently being financed from the government's reserves. He said the restoration operation in the ten months of 1995 had been financed only for one twelfth of necessary funding. "We should not try to economize billions today to waste trillions tomorrow, as it is happening in Chechnya," Shamshurov said.

Maritime Kray To Be Properly Heated This Winter

LD2910180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, Oct 29 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a resolution on the extension of subsidies to the fuel and energy complex of the Maritime Territory. The main task facing the local administration now is to ensure that this money be received by the local energy and coal-industry branches. If this is done, the homes of the local population will be properly heated this winter, Governor of the Maritime Territory Yevgeniy Nazdratenko told INTERFAX-EURASIA.

He said that the bread riots, predicted by the communists, will not occur, either. He announced that in the U.S. he had held talks on the exports of American grain through Maritime ports.

Speaking about local elections, scheduled for December 17, he said that he will run for the post of governor "without any populist slogans or actions." He also said that "people were tired of empty promises and irresponsible moves." He announced that as before he would work to ensure the solution of the problems facing the local fuel and energy complex, to supply the population with food and to ensure Russia's territorial integrity.

Nazdratenko's candidacy to the post of governor has been already advanced by five worker groups.

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Khabarovsk Seeks To Stem Influx of Foreigners

MK2810094195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Oleg Kryuchek from Khabarovsk: "Khabarovsk Is Attempting To Bring the Flow of Foreigners Under Control. A Federal Security Service Directorate Is Offering Itself as a Realty Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy hearings were held at the Khabarovsk Kray Duma on the problem of the presence of foreign citizens on the territory of the kray. Alfred Kalinets, deputy head of the local migration service, complained to the deputies that his staffers, being few in number, are unable to control the processes of internal and external migration. As a result, according to Mr. Kalinets, the flow of foreigners crossing the territory of Khabarovsk Kray, which has risen several dozen times over, is being controlled by no one, and the migration service can only register their number. Major General Vladimir Balanev, head of the regional foreign affairs directorate, suggested that the Khabarovsk deputies should adopt, as soon as possible, a law setting the rules for the stay of foreigners in the kray. He also expressed the wish that this law provide for a unified system of registration of foreigners and an increase in the size of penalties to be paid by those violating visa regulations. In addition, the general deems it necessary that the number of North Korean loggers working in the Far East taiga be brought into strict correspondence with the volume of logging. Mr. Balanev has said that, even now, after the greater part of the Koreans have already been returned to their homeland, their number (about 2,000 people) is greater than the work required, and the unoccupied North Korean citizens are mainly busy smuggling goods and trafficking in drugs. Vladimir Balanev has promised the legislators that, in the near future, the Directorate for Internal Affairs of Khabarovsk Kray will put forward an initiative to create a migration police, which exists in all civilized countries. Most remarkable of all was the speech by Viktor Shestakov, deputy head of the Russian Federal Security Service's [FSB] Directorate for Khabarovsk Kray, who seems to have become the first official to make public Far East dwellers' old fears of "Chinese expansion." Mr. Shestakov shared with the audience the special services' information, saying that the Far East is being populated, on a large scale and without permission, by Chinese citizens. According to Mr. Shestakov, the Chinese are busy now arranging areas of compact habitation in the Russian Far East. As for Khabarovsk Kray, it appears to have already developed a well-settled Chinese diaspora with a great degree of economic independence. The high point of what was said by the Khabarovsk special services official, however, was another statement, which vividly demonstrated all the delicacy of the local authorities' approach to foreign citizens. Mr. Shestakov, in particular, lamented that foreign diplomatic and trade missions were choosing to look for accommodation and offices in Khabarovsk using their own channels, without asking for the FSB's help. After such a complaint, the deputies themselves developed the wish to do something to stop the flow of Chinese arriving in the region, mainly on tourist visas. One of legislators made a proposal, the exact wording of which was as follows: "The maximum term of stay of Chinese citizens in the kray should be limited to five days. This will be enough for them. This is not Paris; we have nothing special to look at."

Kabardino-Balkaria Local Elections Set

964F0200A Nalchik GAZETA YUGA in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 1

[Irina Mezova report: "Elections to Local Government Bodies Scheduled for 17 December"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A sitting of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic Parliament, which adopted the law "Revisions and Addenda to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic," was held on 18 October. The provision concerning local government was supplemented considerably.

Parliament decreed that the elections of deputies of local government councils will be held on 17 December—simultaneously with the elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

Economic Issues

Grain To Be Purchased From Domestic Producers

LD2710190295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Russia "will not discuss" grain import until it has purchased all the grain produced by domestic agricultural enterprises, in particular by farms, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at the All-Russia Congress of Peasants-Landowners in Moscow Friday.

He said that Russian agrarians have threshed 68 million tonnes of grain and total grain production will reach 71-72 million tonnes in 1995 against 81.3 million tonnes in 1994.

The prime minister did not specify whether the figures were given in the bunker or the storehouse weight (as much as 8-12% of grain is lost in Russia during preparation for storing). However, he stressed that

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output of many agricultural products will increase this year. In particular, Russia will produce 20% more sunflower seeds than last year (over 2.5 million tonnes in 1994), 12% more sugar beet (1.4 million tonnes in 1994), vegetables and several other items.

Lapshin: Agricultural Output May Fall by 50 Percent

LD2710211295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Reforms currently under way in Russia are ruinous for agriculture and may result in a 40% fall in agricultural production this year against 1990, and in a 55-60% fall in the following two years, Agrarian Party of Russia head Mikhail Lapshin said at the Second All-Russia Rural Assembly in Moscow Friday.

The fall in production was caused by the fact that "agriculture has been a source of finance for industry and the service sector lately," said Lapshin. The gap between prices for agricultural and industrial goods alone accounts for about 120 trillion rubles of losses suffered by agriculture during the reform years, he said.

He recalled that the 1995 federal budget earmarked less than 4% of total spending for agriculture but only half the money has been provided. "No other sector of the national economy receives so little funds as the agro-industrial complex," said Lapshin.

Participants at the All-Russia Rural Assembly, which hosted over 2,000 representatives of 74 Russian regions, spoke against free purchase and sale of land used for agricultural needs and against a referendum on private land ownership initiated by the Our Home Is Russia bloc and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

Chubays: Moscow To Continue Tough Monetary Policy

LD2710212595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2111 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia intends to continue a tough credit and monetary policy in the next fiscal year, Deputy Chairman of the Russian government Anatoliy Chubays said.

Chubays attended a scientific conference "Ways of Reforming Russia's Economy in 1995-1997."

Speaking to journalists, Chubays pointed out that curbing inflation rates to 1.2-1.5 per cent a month in 1996 appears quite a realistic task. He denied reports forecasting that the economic situation in Russia might sharply worsen next spring. It is absolutely clear that no surge of inflation rates and no catastrophic plummeting of the rouble are expected, he said.

According to Chubays, the state budget for 1997 envisages more allocations to the social sector. However, the point is that apart from increasing budgetary allocations, it is necessary to do everything possible to exempt the country from the worse tax — soaring inflation rates, Chubays said.

Livshits Comments on 'Party of Plummeting Ruble'

LD2710192695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1542 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 27 (ITAR-TASS) — Serious concern about the growing influence of the forces hampering the liquidation of disproportions in the national economy was expressed today by President Yeltsin's economic adviser Aleksandr Livshits.

Livshits told the conference "On ways of development of the Russian economy in 1995-1997" that the most powerful and numerically-strong party in Russia was "the party of the plummeting rouble, provided it falls faster than the rate of internal inflation."

He said "party members" could be found among Russia's regional governors willing to peddle political support for measures ensuring the rouble's further downward slide against the dollar, exporters and their banks who saw no other method of survival, as well as some Federal Assembly members, some people in the government and even in the President's staff.

According to Livshits, the present situation in the economy is far from becoming stable. The existing disproportions arose due both to objective factors of the transition period and blunders made by the government, he said.

Most enterprises, according to Livshits, will be interested in the economic status quo for some time to come. "Their interest explains why decisions aiming to do away with disproportions are so difficult to translate into life," he stressed.

Livshits told BUSINESS-TASS that the Government had plans to act in the direction of easing the tax burden on commercial banks, including on currency loans and own assets. He added, however, that no changes were envisaged to the rate of mandatory reservation, because that question was in the jurisdiction of the Central Bank of Russia.

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Financial Stabilization Plans To Be Continued

LD2810144495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 28 Oct 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (ITAR-TASS) — The government intends to continue the course for financial stabilisation of the Russian economy in 1996. Only a considerable drop in inflation will make dealers stop speculations on the market and invest in industry, said here on Saturday, Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin, summing up the results of the two day conference "Development of Russian Economy in 1995-1997."

In the minister's opinion, the government submitted a quite "realistic budget" to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house). Task No. 1 for 1996 is to improve collection of taxes, bringing them to a level of 15 per cent from the gross domestic product. This will enable the government to channel additional funds to finance the outlays section of the budget.

Yasin reported that the government plans to carry out structural changes in the tax system next year. He claimed that it is necessary to change the procedure of accounting expenses for the production of manufactures.

The government should interfere in the economy only "in special cases," the minister noted. Its task should be aimed, above all, at creating an adequate legislative basis.

Yasin called as "disastrous" the situation in Russia with implementation of laws and other commitments.

The conference was sponsored by the Russian Economics Ministry and the government's commission for economic reform. Cabinet members, leading experts of the State Duma and prominent economists participated in plenary sessions and working groups. The forum discussed various aspects of reforming the Russian economy.

Standard of Living Remains Unsatisfactory

LD3010135195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliy Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Real spending on consumption in families with different income in Russia continues to decline, and this indicates that a large number of people in Russia are in an extremely dissatisfactory material position. This conclusion has been drawn by experts of the Research Instute of the Family at the Ministry for Social Protection. They summed up the analysis of the budget of families by the Russian Statistical Committee.

Changes in the structure of spending on consumption attests to a considerable lowering of real incomes and living standards of families, Doctor of Economics Nina Pankratova, chief of the laboratory of socio-economic problems of the family, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

The spending on food made up 46 percent of all expenditures of an ordinary family two years ago. Now the share of these expenditures rose to 52 percent. The share of spending on various service more than doubled since the beginning of 1993. Meanwhile, the expenditures on non-food products reduced over this period from 44 to 29 percent.

The problem is even more acute in families with low earnings, Pankratova said. More than 60 percent of their expenditures are on food. The poorest families spend approximately 20 percent on non-food products, the richest families up to 40 percent. The share of the expenses on services is 14.5 and 18 per cent, respectively.

Yeltsin Illness Causes Decline in Corporate Stocks

LD2710230995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (FIA-INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin's illness considerably affected the rates of corporate stocks on the off-exchange market, the investment company Center Invest Securities told INTERFAX's Financial Information Agency Friday.

Media reports of Yeltsin's hospitalization with heart complaints Thursday triggered off speculation on the off-exchange market. Most brokers sold corporate stocks 10% cheaper Friday morning than Thursday evening. However, some operators started to buy the stocks at the lower prices at noon, and their rates rose by 2% to 3%.

According to the company New Financial Concept, Western clients of brokers' firms raised their orders to buy stocks at lower prices.

In addition, some gamblers also started to buy devalued stocks hoping to sell them later at a higher price.

Brokers say the insignificant increase in the stock rates Friday afternoon was evidence that the rates will continue to recover Monday. If next week's news of Yeltsin's condition is good, the rates are likely to exceed those of last Wednesday, they added.

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Reforms Recommended for Banking System

LD2710233295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1438 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By BIZNES-TASS correspondent Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — As of 1 October, 2,570 banks and 5,760 branch offices were in existence in Russia. However, only 11-12 percent of them meet international standards. Forty percent have charter capital up to 500 million rubles, which is 10 times less than is required of a small European bank.

The licenses of 114 commercial banks were recalled in the first nine months of this year for violating banking legislation, which is 30 percent more than in the last four years. The number of commercial banks may fall from 350 to 320 and about 40 percent of credit institutions in Moscow may go in the near future, according to the Association of Russian Banks.

This information was disclosed today at the latest meeting of the Public Expert Council for banking legislation under the Federation Council. Deputies of the Federal Assembly, representatives of various official departments and commercial banks, and also academics took part in the discussion on "Strategy for the Structural Development of the Banking System of Russia." Recommendations of the specialist council are being acted on by the relevant committees of the Federation Council.

"The grave situation of the banking sector, which became clear during the recent liquidity crisis, demonstrated the serious need for future reforms of the banking system in Russia," said Oleg Lavrushin, professor of the Financial Academy of the Government of the Russian Federation in an interview with BUSINESS-TASS. "In particular, the strategy for moving toward international banking standards requires the creation of a group from 50-70 of the Russia's biggest banks and from them, 10-15 banks, safeguarded by state guarantees. It is recommended, among other things, that the development of joint-stock banks and the banking structure be accelerated," said Lavrushin.

New U.S. Approach to Russian Exporters Praised

MK2810124695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "The U.S. Administration Is Changing Its Approach to Russian Exporters. The European Union Is Retaining Its 'Prejudiced Attitude' Regarding Antidumping Investigation Cases"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration has shown a marked change in its stance with respect to Russian exporters. Maksim Medvedkov, deputy head of the Multilateral International Cooperation Department at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry [MVES], said in an interview with SEGODNYA that, at a special workshop on dumping suits held in Moscow from 23-25 October, U.S. Department of Commerce officials acknowledged the necessity of using a differentiated approach to Russian exporters and taking a more liberal stance on the issue of defining Russia's market status. The U.S. Administration is also ready to take protective measures against specific producers rather than an entire sector, which, in Mr. Medvedkov's words, is a "major breakthrough." According to the MVES, the U.S. Department of Commerce is presently negotiating four Russia-related issues — the importation of Russian natural uranium, ferroalloys, carbamide, and titanium sponge.

Relations with the European Union [EU], however, show a somewhat different picture. Mr. Medvedkov said that an EU commission is now considering three antidumping cases against Russian producers. The most difficult situation, however, has developed with respect to zinc-producing enterprises of the nonferrous metals industry. After European producers of zinc brought suits against the Chelyabinsk and Belovsk zinc factories, these enterprises received inquiries containing questions on internal production matters and the pricing of products. This procedure is routine and is envisioned under trade agreements. According to Mr. Medvedkov, however, the leaders of the Russian enterprises have assumed a rather strange stance and, in fact, have refused to respond to any of the inquiries — either from the EU, the Russian Metallurgy Committee, or the Russian Federation MVES. Now, in the expert's opinion, the Russians have virtually no chance of having the results of the investigations suit the Chelyabinsk and Belovsk factories. Another case has been initiated by the EU against transformer steel producers. Russian producers of ferrous metals, however, acted in a completely different way and supplied all sides with the information required. Therefore, believes Mr. Medvedkov, despite a preliminary dumping duty imposed by the EU commission, there is a chance "to coordinate the positions of the sides" in negotiations. The third case under investigation deals with potassium salt producers. Discriminatory measures against Russian enterprises were taken as far back as 1989, but now, according to the expert, Russia has a chance to have the current EU import duties revised. This notwithstanding, Mr. Medvedkov says that

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EU officials still have great reservations about the possibility of using a differentiated approach to Russian enterprises. A total of 15 cases have been initiated against Russia, of which two were successfully challenged by the Russian side, while 10 were upheld.

To avoid "dire consequences," Mr. Medvedkov advised that Russian producers be more attentive to the recommendations of federal agencies. In any case, the expert believes that cooperation with the MVES, sectoral committees, and law firms would be "of use" to Russian exporters.

Defense Enterprises Obtain Right To Sell Abroad

MK2810094095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Anna Andrianova: "Another Seven Military-Industrial Complex Enterprises Secure Independent Exporting Right. 'Rosvooruzheniye' Definitely Loses Arms Trade Monopoly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Defense Industry State Committee press service information, the interdepartmental coordination council steered by [First] Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets has made a decision on issuing licenses for independent foreign economic activity to seven production enterprises of the military-industrial complex. This means in effect that "Rosvooruzheniye" [State Company for the Export and Import of Arms and Military Hardware] is losing completely its monopoly on Russian arms exports.

Among the enterprises now entitled to sell independently are the "Rostvertol" [Rostov-on-Don Helicopter Plant] joint-stock company (producer of the Mi-17, Mi-24, Mi-26, and Mi-35 helicopters), the "Gidromash" joint-stock company (manufacturer of hydraulic systems for aviation), the "Izhmash" joint-stock company (producer of Kalashnikov assault rifles, guns, and guided weapons), the "Antey" concern (developer of antiaircraft systems, in particular the S-300), the "Ufimskiye Motory" joint-stock company (producer of aircraft engines), the "Mashpriborostroyeniye" design office (a Tula developer of equipment for antiaircraft missile systems), and the "Metrovagonmash" joint-stock company (a Mytishchi [Moscow Oblast] producer of undercarriages for antiaircraft systems). Notably, "Metrovagonmash" is the only enterprise on this list having nothing to do with the military-industrial complex and is patronized by the Machine Building Committee.

In the words of Defense Industry State Committee press service chief Yuriy Chervakov, licenses for independent foreign economic activity have been issued to those military-industrial complex enterprises which have already set up their own specialist foreign trade services and which know their way in Western markets.

The licenses issued to the enterprises specify the spheres of foreign economic activity, limited by the right to export only their own products. It is also supposed that some enterprises, for example, the "Priborostroyeniye" [instrument making] design office, will now be able to provide intellectual services to foreign customers in developing new weapon systems. The licenses also authorize servicing, which, undoubtedly, is of interest precisely to producers rather than to go-betweens.

The military-industrial complex enterprises which independently sell their products on foreign markets will perhaps have the percentage of their profits deducted as payment to the state budget is lowered. However, the Defense Industry State Committee and "MiG-MAPO" ['Mikoyan i Gurevich' planes — Moscow Aviation Production Association] (the enterprises of the latter were the first to obtain the right to independent foreign economic activity) do not know by how much the percentage will be lowered.

The Defense Industry State Committee press service believes that "MiG-MAPO" is now sufficiently active and competent at Western exhibitions. According to the same source, "MiG-MAPO" will soon compete to supply fighter planes for Austria's Air Force by offering its MiG-29 plane. The production association itself declined to comment on this information.

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International Affairs

NATO Contacted on Ukraine's Suggested Duties in Bosnia

LD2710132395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1106 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BUENOS AIRES, Oct 27 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Ukrainian Embassy in Belgium transmitted formal suggestions to NATO chiefs for Ukrainian participation in the Bosnian peacekeeping efforts, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko told newsmen Thursday in Buenos Aires.

The Ukrainian government told the North Atlantic Alliance that Ukraine wanted to "contribute to efforts by the Implementation Forces in the former Yugoslavia" and was ready to discuss its role in peacekeeping operations.

According to Udovenko, Kiev lays no claim to a role in purely military operations in Bosnia. As a non-aligned country, Ukraine could render services to the transport air force or escort humanitarian aid convoys although the financial backing of Ukrainian efforts in Bosnia presents a big problem, Udovenko said.

In the past few years two Ukrainian battalions have served with the UN peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia and Croatia. Last September the Croatia-based battalion completed its mission and returned home.

Peacekeepers Pullout From Croatia To Be Completed 15 Nov

LD2810200595 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The withdrawal from Croatia of the Ukrainian battalion, which is part of the UN peacekeeping force, will be completed by 15 November. Lieutenant General Heorhiy Pankratov, deputy chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces, said the majority of the battalion servicemen had already returned to Ukraine in line with UN plans. The remaining 15 men are engaged in preparations for shipping the battalion's equipment to Ukraine.

Kuchma Views Relations With Russia, Black Sea Fleet

LD2910142395 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is continuing his visit to three Latin American countries [Brazil, Argentina, and Chile]. At a news conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, journalists paid much attention to the current state of Ukrainian-Russian relations. Our correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko has more details. [passage omitted]

[Naumenko] Replying to a question at a news conference in Buenos Aires on whether any agreement was concluded between Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, Kuchma said: Never. No such agreement was or could be signed. However, we have always been in favor of economic cooperation.

As usual, Russian journalists accredited in Buenos Aires did not forget to ask about the division of the Black Sea Fleet. I am absolutely convinced, Kuchma said, there is no lack of political forces either in Russia or Ukraine now that do not desire the resolution of this problem, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. I want to tell you unambiguously, Kuchma said, there should be no such problem. It is extremely unfortunate, Kuchma said, that I am forced to say I do not see any movement to meet us halfway by the Russian leadership. Incidentally, this process can only be a bilateral one, in the interests of both states, both Ukraine and Russia. We are obliged to and must resolve this conflict because neither side can win, and undoubtedly in this situation the world views us only negatively.

Black Sea Fleet Redeploying Equipment to Russia

LD2710222795 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Black Sea Fleet command is continuing to redeploy military equipment to (?Ternyuk) in Russia's Krasnodar Territory. The INTERFAX-UKRAINE news agency has learned from military sources in Sevastopol that the Black Sea Fleet command has recently become more active in redeploying to Sevastopol the equipment and weapons of the 126th Shore Defense Division, which has been deployed near Simferopol. According to these sources, the old equipment remains with the 810th brigade for the envisaged division between Ukraine and Russia. In addition, according to these sources, property is also actively being moved from other military units, where the Black Sea Fleet is based.

MP Says Nuclear Withdrawal May Take Several Years

LD2710213495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Oct 27 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament's Commission for Defence and Security Volodymyr Mukhin believes that the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine will drag for several years.

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Meeting a parliamentary delegation from Sweden in Kiev Friday, Mukhin stressed that "Ukraine carries the entire financial burden on nuclear elimination."

"When we decided to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the west promised us aid," Mukhin said. "But so far there has been no financial aid to guarantee the removal of arms."

At the same time, Mukhin stressed that "the nuclear arms issue has been solved in Ukraine once and for all."

"Parliament voted for joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by the constitutional majority of votes, and no one can reverse this decision," he said.

In keeping with the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed by USSR and U.S. in July of 1991 and ratified by Ukraine's parliament on November 18, 1993, Ukraine is to dismantle missiles and dispatch their separate parts extracted from silos to technical bases. In all, 46 SS-24 AND 30 SS-19 missiles are to be dismantled.

On January 14th, 1994 in Moscow Presidents of the United States, Ukraine, and Russia signed a package of documents on withdrawing nuclear missiles from Ukraine. As part of these accords about 40 percent of that republic's nuclear arsenal have been removed. In exchange, Russia has been supplying to Ukraine fuel for its nuclear power plants.

Meeting Focuses on Border, 'Anti-Ukrainian Activity'

LD2710211695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The criminalization of society has helped "criminal manifestations on the border become more extensive and dangerous," Viktor Bannykh, chairman of the State Committee for Defense of Ukrainian State Borders, said on 27 October at a joint sitting of the coordinating committee for combating corruption and organized crime under the president and the coordinating council for issues of developing the state border under the Cabinet of Ministers.

A UNIAN correspondent reports that Bannykh focussed on the way anti-Ukrainian activity in the border districts of neighboring states had become more active. According to him, "we have been systematically recording corresponding propaganda campaigns in the border districts of Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia".

The authorities of countries neighboring Ukraine in the west have been taking measures since spring of this year to increase border and customs checks and guarding of the borders. According to Bannykh's information, some of them have also been examining the possibility of introducing a visa regime for Ukrainian citizens.

Bannykh also dwelt on the problem of illegal migration. He stressed that 8,000 people, who violated the Ukrainian state border, had been detained in Ukraine over nine months. Seventy-eight percent of them arrived on Ukrainian territory by legal means. According to information from the State Committee for Defense of Ukrainian State Borders, over 900,000 foreigners have arrived in Ukraine and remained for temporary residence this year. Bannykh expressed certainty that some of them will attempt to illegally cross from Ukraine to Western European countries.

A list of documents on the further defense of Ukraine's state borders were examined at the sitting and recommended to the relevant ministries and departments, in particular a draft state program to combat illegal migration, a draft concept for defending the border and the state's sovereign rights in an exclusive (marine) economic zone, and a draft plan of joint actions by law enforcement bodies and other state executive bodies to increase border defense.

The joint sitting took place under the chairmanship of Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets.

Sweden To Cooperate on EU, Environment, Nuclear Issues

LD2710232595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Sweden will provide support for Ukraine in the fulfillment of its obligations linked to entry to the Council of Europe, Goerel Thurdin, deputy speaker of the Swedish Riksdag said at a news conference today. According to her, during her visit to Ukraine she discussed, in particular, the issue of environment protection, the problems of alternative energy supplies, and the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

Replying to journalists' questions about ratification of the agreement on cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union [EU], Goerel Thurdin noted that Sweden was not an EU member when this document was signed and that this issue had not been in the parliament's plan of work. She said she would study the issue on her return to Sweden.

Ivan Zayets, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and CIS Relations, said there is a need to supplement traditional East-West cooperation in Europe with North- East cooperation. He also asked the Swedish side to accelerate ratification of

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the agreement on cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 2204 GMT adds the following: "Ukraine hopes to widen cooperation with Sweden in environmental protection, Ukrainian Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Minister Yuriy Kostenko told Swedish Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Goerel Thurdin, during Thurdin's official visit to Kiev. Ukraine is considering joint control of proliferation of nuclear materials and dumping nuclear waste, Kostenko said, calling the latter problem "one of the most pressing for Ukraine." The area around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant contains over 1,000 temporary facilities storing contaminated equipment, said Kostenko. Kostenko supported the development of nuclear energy production in Ukraine provided its safety is ensured."]

Kuchma Holds Talks in Argentina; Sends Yeltsin Message

LD2710220995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have had very fruitful talks. I am glad that our views on world development and the events taking place on the planet are either similar or coincide to a great extent. We have agreed to cooperate at the political level within all international organizations; above all, the United Nations Organization and within regional structures.

This is how Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, who is on an official visit to the Republic of Argentina, described the results of his meeting with the President of Argentina Carlos Menem today, replying to a question from a UKRINFORM correspondent.

Kuchma said there exist vast opportunities for trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. We have agreed to set up joint groups of experts, economists, businessmen, and industrialists, who are to work out without delay specific trends and spheres for cooperation, Kuchma said. I am convinced that our cooperation has good prospects for the future, the Ukrainian president added, the more so that the peoples of Ukraine and Argentina are building open economies, and Argentina's experience is of great interest to us, Kuchma remarked.

On the same day, Kuchma sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, wishing that he recover as soon as possible. Kuchma told this to a news conference for Argentinian and Ukrainian journalists today.

[Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian at 1900 GMT on 27 October carries a report on Kuchma's talks in Argentina today, adding that Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko; Roman Shpek, deputy prime minister for the economy; and Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the president's administration attended the meeting between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Argentinian President Carlos Menem today. The station reports that the two sides signed documents which included an agreement on abolishing visas for individuals with diplomatic or official passports. Kuchma, it is reported, also visited the Argentinian Supreme Court of Justice today, where he met its president, Julio Nazareno.]

Kuchma, Menem Sign Accords

LD2710223995 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official visit to Argentina by the Ukrainian president began today. Argentinian President Carlos Saul Menem greeted Leonid Kuchma warmly.

After the presidents met in a small group, Ukrainian-Argentinian documents were signed: a declaration on principles of relations, a declaration of intent on cooperation in space research, and agreements on trade and economic cooperation. A state reception in honor of the Ukrainian president was arranged at the Argentinian president's residence.

National Affairs

Moroz Denies Membership in CIS Parliament Harmful

LD2710234595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhitomir Region — "Ukraine's accession to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is not a yoke around its neck, as some say, but a guarantee of lawful interstate democratic relations," Oleksandr Moroz, Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman, said at a meeting with local deputies of Yemilchinskiy District today. According to Moroz, the Interparliamentary Assembly's statutory conditions envisage the adoption of decisions by consensus, each state has one vote, and the Interparliamentary Assembly's decisions are of a recommendatory nature, which in the Moroz's opinion does not pose any kind of threat to Ukraine's independence.

Moroz stressed that the debate in parliament on Ukraine's accession to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly "arose on barren ground."

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Moroz Doubtful That Constitution Will Be Adopted

LD2810180795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhitomir Region — At a news conference on the results of his working trip through the region, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz expressed his doubts as to the possibility of the Ukrainian Constitution being adopted "even by a simple majority rather than a constitutional one."

According to the Speaker, if the Constitutional Treaty between the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council is used as a basis for the Constitution, "this will be a disaster, which will show the total lack of democracy and the establishment of a monarchy in the state."

The Supreme Council chairman stressed that should it be impossible for the Supreme Council to adopt the Constitution as a whole, then six to eight of its conceptual provisions will be adopted. Then a decision on a Ukraine-wide referendum will be adopted.

Moroz stressed that the executive authorities' powers were considerably extended by the Constitutional Treaty, but that almost every decree prepared by the president's team was "interference in the legislative authority's legal field."

The Supreme Council speaker expressed the supposition that the decrees' authors were setting such an aim on purpose in order "to show who is number one in the state." "I hope the president will be above all this, while the Supreme Council is in favor of a clear delimitation of powers," Moroz emphasized.

Moroz Opposes Religious Associations in Parliament

LD3010110895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0950 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhitomir — Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz told journalists in Zhitomir he is "emphatically opposed" to deputies' involvement in any religious organizations and interference in church affairs. He spoke in connection with the recent formation of the association For a Single Community Church in parliament.

Moroz said he remains a staunch adherent to the "separation of the state from the church." Stressing that the unification of churches is strictly the believers' business, he said: "Ukraine, undoubtedly, needs a single canonic church." He added confidently that "essence and faith, not formality, as some would have it, should be the first consideration" in the process of unification. "Anyone failing to understand this may be regarded not as a true believer, but an antichrist", the speaker said.

Marchuk on Decision To Run in Parliamentary Elections

LD2810213095 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk made a one-day trip to Mirgorod in Poltava Region, during which he met representatives of labor collectives.

[Unidentified correspondent] Stressing that our state is entering the fifth year of state independence and is now at a turning point in its history, in his speech Yevhen Marchuk set forth the main priorities of the activities of the government led by him at this crucial time for the state. The head of government paid especial attention to control over executive discipline in the provinces, and informed those present of his intention of making checks for this purpose in all regions without exception. Ending his speech, Yevhen Marchuk stated his decision to run for people's deputy of Ukraine.

[Begin Marchuk recording] Proceeding from an understanding of this process and the prospects that whatever happens we should escape from this crisis situation, and we see how this can be done and see that the people are available for this, the forces are available for this, our state's huge resources are available for this, and proceeding from namely these considerations, I agree to run as a candidate for deputy. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The issues of improving the taxation system, problems of prices and pricing, and wages were the subject of discussion at a meeting between the head of government and managers of industrial and agroindustrial enterprises of Mirgorodskiy District. At Yevhen Marchuk's proposal, an exchange of opinions took place on the government's intention to partially introduce tax in kind in rural areas because of financial difficulties, provided that the agricultural produce received goes to the state reserves, and also to defer the debts of collective agricultural enterprises by five years in order to create identical starting conditions for them to develop agricultural production.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] After you made public your decision today to run for deputy, an entirely reasonable question arises — Will your success in the upcoming elections hinder your main activity as leader of the government?

[Marchuk] It is too early to talk of my success. My decision was (?not a simple) one. I have already said, it was a fairly complex one. I analyzed the whole situation for quite a long time. But what nudged me toward finally making the decision was the situation, when we reported on the government's action program in parliament and

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the debate on the government's action program in parliament. It will not hinder, because closer links with people, closer links with people engaged in production, be it industrial or agricultural, with managers — on the contrary, this will enrich me. But the main thing is it will give me much information of the kind, which no papers, no memos, no reports can give. [end recording]

Chernobyl Reactor Shut Down; Radiation Background Unchanged

LD2710175995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 27 (Itar-Tass) — One of two working reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear plant was switched off on Friday because of defects inside a refueling system, officials said.

Problems were discovered inside the system for loading fresh fuel into the reactor (the operation is performed twice a day).

The reactor was shut down. It is yet to be specified how long the reactor will be switched off.

The radiation background inside the plant and around it has not changed.

Economic Issues

Marchuk: Lower Interests Rates Needed To Boost Production

LD2810183495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MIRGOROD (POLTAVA REGION), Oct 28 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk believes that in order to increase production growth it is necessary to bring down discount rates and the inflation and grant enterprises access to bank loans.

Meeting with heads of Poltava region's enterprises in Mirgorod Saturday, Marchuk said that discount and inflation rates may be cut to 30-35 percent and 28-30 percent (1.6-1.8% a month) respectively by mid-1996.

The prime minister said that enterprises must have access to bank loans, in particular to long-term ones, for which it is necessary to interest commercial bank in cooperating with producers of goods, especially in the agro-industrial complex.

Marchuk said that the government intends to freeze enterprises' debts for five years. Admitting that it is not a market measure, he said that it will help "find the way out."

Budget Committee Chairman Discusses Budget Deficit

WS3010101095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2105 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 25 — Ukraine's budget deficit totals KBV247 trillion so far this year and is being covered by National Bank of Ukraine emissions and foreign credits, Mykola Azarov, parliamentary budget committee chairman, said.

Through sales of state bonds and other state securities, the NBU covered 60.6 percent of the budget deficit, Azarov stated.

The chairman said the budget must be reviewed and corrected, making cuts where appropriate.

"We have not learned to make direct financing for a particular purpose. The funds are being sprinkled," Azarov said.

A total of KBV1,342 trillion in earnings, 58.9 percent of the year's projections, have gone to budget coffers during this period, he said.

The leading categories falling below budget income estimates are privatization and licensing sales of liquor and tobacco products. The budget is already shy KBV182 trillion in these areas, Azarov said at a Wednesday press conference.

The gross national product fell by 12.7 percent. Industry slow-downs totaled 14.4 percent in the industrial sector, 30 percent in the investment sector and 40 percent in the service sector, the chairman said.

"Retail trade turnover decreased by 10 percent and equaled KBV1.8 million per capita."

The profitability of enterprises averages 55 percent. More than 80 percent of enterprises earned profit, according to the chairman. "Our economy proved once more that nobody is able to turn it upside down," Azarov said.

Talking about the 1996 budget, Azarov said the project had not officially been submitted to Parliament, "but the committee is already working on it." He said the Rada would consider next year's budget by the first half of December.

The chairman severely criticized the NBU's tough monetary policy. "It may destroy all national industry," he said. The committee also discussed lowering taxes without any budgetary losses. Azarov said this could be done by discontinuing 27 tax privileges.

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Azarov emphasized that Parliament's recent decision on increasing the poverty level would be implemented "although it is too late to help."

"Those members of the Cabinet who do not want to fulfill it may leave. Parliament will not insist on their staying," Azarov said.

Commission Holds News Conference on State Budget

WS2710154895 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1138 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's parliamentary correspondent, a press conference held on October 25 by the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada [Supreme Council] Budget Commission, Mykola Azarov, focused on implementation of the state budget in the first nine months of the year as well as its amendment and plans for the 1996 budget.

According to Mr. Azarov, poor activities were reported in practically all the sectors of the economy, with 80 percent of enterprises reporting decline in production. A fall in retail trade was also reported. As a result, budget revenues in the first three quarters of the year constituted only 58.9 percent of projected budget revenues for the whole year.

According to Mr. Azarov, the main factor behind the non-implementation of the budget is non-resolution of the payment crisis. He disclosed that enterprises' credits debts currently amount to 2 quadrillion 36 trillion karbovanets, which is more than twice the nation' gross national product in the first nine months of the year.

According to figures released by Mr. Azarov, the consolidated budget expenditure in the period under review amounted to 1 quadrillion 567 trillion karbovanets or 59 percent of the figure projected for the whole year. Budget deficit in this period amounted to 247 trillion karbovanets, which was offset with credits in the amount of 263 trillion karbovanets obtained in the form of loans from the National Bank of Ukraine and external sources.

Industrialists Oppose Resolution on Subsistence Level

WS2710140195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1138 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's [Supreme Council] October 12 decision to raise the minimum sufficiency level to 4.8 million karbovanets has prompted various reactions in Ukraine.

According to the Presidium of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Businesspeople, some forces in the society could use the decision to try to jeopardize constructive cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of the Ukrainian government, which could lead to a breakdown in the constitutional agreement signed between the Ukrainian president and the parliament. Apart from that, the decision practically posses an obstacle to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' program of action which was recently approved by the parliament.

The Black Sea Inter-Regional Union of Industrialists and Businesspeople and the Kharkov branch of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Businesspeople hold the opinion that the introduction of the law in question will be hindered mainly by a lack of circulating funds and chronic non-payment problems. They stressed that resolution of social issues is directly dependent on the level of production development, adding that production continues to fall in Ukraine due to inadequate taxation, and financial and crediting systems, deformation of the production structure, and poor mutual relations between Ukraine and other CIS countries. According to them, adoption of such a decision under the current economic situation will require extra monetary emissions which, in turn, will push inflation up. They noted that it is the lower class citizens that will suffer most as a result of the above-mentioned problems.

The union's Lugansk regional branch expressed the view held by the majority of directors of industrial enterprises in the region when it voiced its opposition to the implementation of the parliament's decision. The region's directors say the most important task today is to keep the economic situation under control and prevent inflation from spiraling.

In letters to senior government officials, a public organization called Business Meeting, which unites Severodonetsk-based employers and industrialists says implementation of the directive will have "catastrophic" consequences and called for immediate measures aimed at increasing production and improving Ukrainian scientific and technical potentials.

The president of Mriya-Invest holding company and a member of the Council of Employers and Producers set up under the auspices of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma s3ays all measures, including those aimed at influencing Verkhovna Rada deputies, should be taken to defend the gains of the market reforms.

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Commission Plans Better Utilization of Donbass Reserves

WS2710140795 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1138 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A government commission chaired by Ukrainian Vice Premier Vasyl Durdynets, who is also chairman of the Presidential Coordinating Committee for Fighting Corruption and Organized Crime, has been working in Donbass for the past seven days.

According to Mr. Durdynets, the aim of the commission's meeting is to develop a plan that will pave the way for better utilization of the Donbass region's vast industrial and mineral reserves. The Donbass region is the largest industrial region in Ukraine.

During the commission's activities, its members visited a number of enterprises in the region. As members of the commission disclosed, the region's mining settlements are in a deep crisis. They said that unprofitable mines will have to be closed but expressed fear that a large number of people will lose their jobs.

The commission also analyzed the criminal situation in the region and reviewed the implementation of the Ukrainian president's anti-crime decrees. It also drew up measures aimed at stabilizing the criminal situation in the region.

Mr. Durdynets also met with the region's World War II veterans.

Use of Low-Quality Coal Planned To Boost Energy Production

WS2710140895 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1138 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to the Ukrainian Energy Ministry's plans, facilities for generating an extra 7,390 megawatts of electrical energy will be commissioned at Ukraine's thermoelectric power stations by the year 2000. In addition, the power generating units, with a collective capacity of 6,500 megawatts, currently in operation will be reconstructed.

The new power generating units are planned to be fueled with low quality coal which is in abundance in Ukraine. According to Vasyl Kucher, chief of the Ukrainian Energy Ministry's Department for Capital Construction and Technical Rearmament, a 350,000-megawatt power generating unit will be commissioned at the Slavyansk thermoelectric power station, while a 15.3-megawatt power generating unit will be commissioned at the Dniester hydroelectric power station.

The 117 power generating units installed at Ukraine's 17 thermoelectric power stations generate about 120 billion kilowatt-hours of electrical energy. They are operating at approximately 60 percent capacity.

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Belarus

NATO Commander Concludes Visit, Holds News Conference

WS2710140595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1138 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 26 the visit of a NATO delegation led by General Hans Hansen, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Central Europe, was completed. During this visit the delegation met with Belarus' Defence Minister Leanid Maltsaw, members of the Supreme Soviet Committee on National Security, Defence and Crime Prevention, and visited the 30th Motorized Brigade stationed in Maryina Horka, Minsk region, the Belarusian Military Academy and the Minsk Suvorov Military School.

At the concluding press conference General Hansen said that the main onbjective of the visit had been familiarization with the present state of the Belarusian Armed Forces and the system of cadre training, Belarus' position as regards its participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme, and the exchange of opinions with the national military leadership about a wide range of issues concerning the safeguarding of security in Central and Eastern Europe.

General Hansen expressed gratitude to the Belarusian party for this opportunity to get acquainted with the situation in the national armed forces, the process of their reforming, and expressed content with the volume and quality of information the delegation had been given.

According to the assistant of the Belarusian defence minister, Major-General Yuryy Partnow, the NATO delegation was told that at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a working group was continuing to prepare a presentation document concerning Belarus' participation in the Partnership for Peace programme. "We hold," Mr. Partnow said, "that this programme will be conducive to the extension of political and military cooperation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and, as a result, to stability and security in the whole European continent."

The Republic's leadership really considers it necessary, and this was confirmed again during the Minsk negotiations, to develop cooperation with NATO within the framework of the aforesaid programme. And its final end, in Partnow's opinion, must be contribution to the safeguarding of European security, not the creation of new in forms, but old in content military blocs which existed in Cold War times.

The NATO delegation was informed of the resumption of carrying out Belarus' obligations under the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, which had been suspended because of certain financial problems. According to Mr. Partnow, the position of the Belarusian leadership has begun to meet with understanding from parliaments and military circles in the NATO member States. And the USA, Germany and Great Britain have pledged to render technical assistance to Belarus in the destruction of military equipment in excess of the limits specified in the CFE Treaty. Mr. Partnow publicly assured the NATO representatives that the withdrawal of Russian strategic offensive forces would be continued, and that there would be no nuclear weapons on the territory of Belarus by the end of 1996.

As for "the wide range of issues concerning the safeguarding of security in Europe", the participants of the press conference did not go into details of what exactly they had discussed. Nevertheless, they did not deny that the point of NATO expansion had also been raised during the negotiations. And the discussion of this problem, according to Mr. Partnow, "was not of unclouded character at all." In his opinion, "NATO expansion is a long-term process and it, firstly, must be developed in the name of the main purpose (the safeguarding of security), and, secondly, must meet the interests of all states which are concerned with the solution of this problem together with NATO."

On the other hand, it is not so easy to join NATO as it may seem to someone. NATO's demands from new members are simply unrealizable for many states. Those seeking to join should settle all problems concerning the condition of national minorities, territorial problems and a number of others. General Hansen suggested that one should approach to this matter taking into account the fact that "not NATO wants to expand itself to the east, but some countries want to join NATO."

NATO Commander Cited on Financial Assistance

WS3010094395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0823 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Even the least significant extent of Belarus' participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme will require certain expenses from the state budget, scanty as it is. However the NATO leadership has expressed understanding with respect to the economic difficulties in the countries of the former Soviet Union. As General Helge Hansen, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Central Europe, declared at a press conference during his visit to Belarus, NATO is ready to render a certain financial aid to the states seeking to join the Partnership for Peace programme. General Hansen did not specify how considerable this aid would be. He said: "The extent of each country's

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participation in the NATO programme should be directly determined by such a country itself proceeding from its potential." So the NATO general made it clear that many countries, including Belarus, should not expect much. General Hansen was even more frank when explaining how a state which will be given such aid should treat this state of affairs: "This is not a charitable action. Everything is being done proceeding from our personal interests because the more countries take part in the Partnership for Peace programme, the more reliable our own security is."

President Lukashenka on Relations With Russia

LD2710221295 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1900 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we reported previously, President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka is now in the United States. The other day he spoke at the Council for Foreign Affairs. Being a noncommercial organization, the council's main purpose is to increase understanding of U.S. foreign policy and international affairs with the help of dialogue and an exchange of opinions. During his speech, Lukashenka stressed that the relations between Belarus and Russia remain a priority for us. We, in the Republic of Belarus, see Belarus as a reliable partner, the Belarusian president stressed. Naturally, this does not exclude and cannot exclude complexities. There are unsolved problems inherited from the Soviet Union, as well as new ones. However, solving them from the position of mutually recognized sovereignty is easier and more effective. At the same time, Lukashenka stressed that sovereignty is not a picture or a stick, but a working tool of our everyday life. In the sphere of international relations, according to the Lukashenka, the cooperation with Russia allows us not to worry about Moscow. Our freedom to solve international problems in our own interests grows, stressed the president.

Lukashenka: Americans 'Only Knew Filth About Our Belarus'

LD3010114795 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0500 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The visit to the United States by the Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has ended. [passage omitted]

At Minsk-2 airport, the president gave an interview on the results of his visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent, in Russian] It seemed to us that America was probably discovering Belarus and Lukashenka rather than Lukashenka discovering America. He knew more about them than they about us. [words indistinct]

[Lukashenka, in Russian] I would go further than that. I am sorry, but they only knew filth about our Belarus, as presented by certain people; and you journalists who were there with me agreed that everything was turned upside down and inside out, and presented in the way that those people wanted. Yes indeed, the Americans — the citadel of capitalism, as I said at the meeting — were discovering us; and if we implement what was agreed there, I am convinced that we shall rescue not only our electronics industry, but even machine-tool building. I think that the government will complete the implementation of all this, since they themselves will come to us — they will come to sign specific plans, and they will bring timetables for implementation of the accords. For example, Detroit Diesel, Motorola, and other companies will provide timetables for the president of Belarus. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Moldova

Popov Calls For 'Normal' Ties With Russia

AU3010120095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 26/10/1995 (BASA-press) — The Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) has to be promoted by efficient executive organs; otherwise this activity is useless. Foreign Minister Mihail Popov made this statement today at a press conference concerning the November 1 reunion of BSEC foreign ministers to be held in Chisinau.

According to Popov, the reunion will determine the BSEC juridical framework. He said the member-states have to fulfill their own economic interests which will eventually remove all political dissensions in the area. Popov said that before founding the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank all participant states have to assess their financial abilities. Commenting on Boris Yeltsin's recent decree on Russia's strategy regarding the CIS, Popov said "Moscow intends to adopt different opinions regarding the CIS states, depending on their degree of loyalty to Russia." However, "Moldova will promote its own policy proceeding from the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Asked how any changes in the Russian Foreign Ministry leadership might influence the Moldovan-Russian relations, Popov said "no one can say about that since Kozyrev still works. In New York I had the opportunity to talk with Andrey Vladimirovich [Kozyrev] and we reached a common point of view that the relations between our countries follow a normal path of development," said the Moldovan foreign minister. Popov said

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many changes could occur after the parliamentary elections in Russia. "The present State Duma had direct ties with Dniester, which has many times generated our negative reactions. Duma's cooperation with Tiraspol is not part of our good relations with Russia," said Popov. At the same time, he was certain that the Russian troops withdrawal agreement will be ratified by the Russian Parliament.

Dissatisfaction With Yeltsin Decree on CIS Relations

LD2710220295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 27 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Oct 27 (Interfax) — Moldova is unsatisfied with some provisions of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree regarding Russia's strategic policy towards the CIS countries, Moldovan Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov told a press conference in Chisinau Thursday.

"The decree only seems to be an internal Russian document," Popov said. "Taking into consideration that Moldova is a member of the CIS, this document concerns Moldova's interests," he said.

"In our participation in the CIS we focus on economic cooperation. The military-and-political aspect of the CIS is likely to be put in place without us. We do not intend to take part in military-political unions," Popov said.

Popov said he thought after reading the Russian president's decree that Russia "will differentiate the CIS countries in terms of their loyalty towards Moscow" and build relations with the CIS countries proceeding from such loyalty. "Whatever documents are adopted in Moscow or in other capitals, Moldova will build its policy proceeding from its national interests," Popov said.

Popov said the foreign ministers of the countries of the Black Sea region were to meet in Chisinau on November 1. He said the foreign ministers would in particular discuss the creation of a legal basis for developing economic cooperation between the region's countries.

Gagauz Parliament Chief: Moscow Talks 'Fruitful'

AU3010113595 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 27/10/1995 (BASApress) — Piotr Pashaly, chairman of the Gagauz People's Assembly, said at a press conference yesterday that the recent visit to Moscow by a Comrat delegation was fruitful. The Gagauz delegation met representatives of the Russian Government, Moscow City Hall and higher educational institutions. Pashaly said a contract was concluded with the Moscow City Hall. According to it, Moscow experts will design and install water purification systems in Comrat, Ceadar-Lunga and Vulcanesti. Also it was agreed upon a permanent exchange of experience and delegations between the Russian and Gagauz parliamentary commissions.

The rector of Comrat University, Stepan Varban, said at the press conference that the Comrat and Moscow educational institutions will exchange students and teachers. Moscow will supply equipment for an agro-chemical laboratory at Comrat University. "All these aspects of cooperation do not go beyond the legislative frame of interstate relations between Russia and Moldova," stressed Pashaly.

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Kazakhstan

Military Cargo for DPRK Detained by Russia Illegally

LD2810151795 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] The special train carrying Kazakh military equipment was detained by Russian customs officers for no reason, the Ulan company believes. As is known, at Khasan station on the Far Eastern railway, customs officers detained a train carrying Kazakh military equipment which had apparently passed through the whole of Russia without any documents. In the -light of this, the general director of the Ulan state foreign trade company, T. Ibrayev, gave the following explanation.

A contract for the delivery of military equipment and property to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he explained, was concluded and implemented by the state Ulan foreign trade company, which has official permission from the Kazakhstan Government to export and import arms in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and international agreements within the framework of the CIS.

Owing to the nature of the freight, and with the aim of ensuring its safety, its transit across the Russian Federation was agreed in advance with the relevant state bodies in Russia. Operational information about the train's passage along the whole route was received daily by the Ulan state foreign trade company and also by the military communications services of the defense ministries of Russia and Kazakhstan.

The train arrived at Khasan station on 14 October this year with all the necessary documents for passage over the Russian-Korean border. But, according to reports in the Russian mass media, the freight was detained because the right documents were not produced, though the Ulan state foreign trade company has still not received any explanation about the detention of the military cargo from Russia's official bodies. There has only been a telegram signed by the head of the Khasan railway station and sent to the head of the sending station saying "the freight was detained at the Khasan customs office because the Ministry of Defense had not given permission to export the freight and because there was no stamp from the Almaty customs office on the customs declaration form" (this was the wording used). The telegram was delivered to the addressee on 21 October this year.

At the request of the Ulan state foreign trade company, the customs committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan re-examined all the documents and, on 19 October, official confirmation that they were in order and that the freight in transit across the Russian Federation could be let through, was sent to the chairman of the state customs committee of the Russian Federation, A.S. Kruglov.

Taking this into account, the general director said, we believe the situation resulting from unlawful action by the Russian Federation customs, and the sensation the Russian mass media — ORT, RTR and NTV — has created around the unjustifiable detention of the train, is causing serious damage to Kazakh-Russian relations and, in the eyes of the world community, diminishing the efforts of the president and government of Kazakhstan to consolidate these relations.

Pavlodar Region Firms To Finance Russian Television Relays

LD3010095095 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 0400 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The administration of Pavlodar Region has approved an initiative proposed by a number of enterprises and firms, which have decided to render financial help for the full resumption of broadcasts of the Russian television channels. The first collective contribution amounts to 900,000 tenge, and has enabled residents of Pavlodar to watch almost all Russian programs.

Almaty Faces Winter Gas Shortage

LD2910173295 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 23 Oct 95 p2

[FBIS Translated Text] With the cold setting in, residents of the capital, as they did last year, have started actively phoning all the authorities to ask just one question: when will houses be provided with heating? The heating workers promised to switch on all the districts stage by stage by 25 October, and it would seem that they have kept their promises, but nobody has got warmer as a result — the radiators in the houses are hardly "breathing". But misfortune, as is known, does not come alone: lighting has been switched off periodically in some districts and there is no gas almost anywhere in the city. Gas is provided in gas rings, but in such a quantity that one can hardly call it gas.

What is the reason for the disruptions in Almaty's gas supply? We put this question to the Valeriy Yurchenko, vice president of the Almatygaz joint-stock company, and here is what we learned.

It is already a week since pressure in the central gas main fell sharply. This problem was felt particularly acutely with the onset of the cold weather, when the private sector started to take gas for heating. The small

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amount of gas that we received was not enough for everybody. Uzbekistan cut the supply of "blue fuel" by about one-third from the contractual volume because of chronic debts. Today Almatygaz owes the Uzbek side $10 million. Half of the debt is "hanging" over the population and the other half over industrial enterprises. The capital is supposed to transfer 163 million tenge every month, but over the past 20 days it has managed to scrape together only 42 million tenge.

According to Yurchenko, even if Uzbekistan had supplied the full volume of gas, this quantity still would not be enough to ensure a normal gas supply to the city during the winter period.

First, the existing gas main is incapable of carrying the quantity of gas necessary for the capital — 800 cubic meters per hour. Construction of the second line, from Bukhara through Tashkent and Bishkek to Almaty, has been halted because of a lack of funds, although it was scheduled to be put into operation as far back as the beginning of the 1990's. In addition, in Almaty city region alone another 8,000 consumers have been added to the existing low-capacity gas artery.

Second, the gas main runs through Chimkent and Dzhambul Regions, and the gas reaches Almaty last. Even though these regions' debts are two or three times those of Almaty, they have the right to the "first night". That is why the capital is in a gas impasse. The vice president also said that Almatygaz is intending to wage a very tough fight against defaulters: debtors will have their oven doors closed once and for all. In his opinion, the capital can expect several disruptions in its gas supply this winter.

Preparations Begin for New Republican Capital in Akmola

LD3010123195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Oct 30 (Interfax) — Kazakhstan's First Deputy Prime Minister Nyghmetzhan Yesengharin has chaired the first session of the state commission on transferring government and parliamentary offices into a new republican capital in Akmola, formerly Tselinograd.

Isingarin, put in charge of the commission by presidential decree, told Interfax that work on the capital's transfer "will drag on for years" and will proceed in several stages, with the power, fuel and energy ministries to be the first departments to move into Akmola. However, Yesengharin did not say when the process would be completed.

The commission discussed organizational matters and the structure of its permanent working body, which will consist of three sections: the first will be in charge of government offices transfer, the second will be responsible for engineering and transport infrastructure, and the third will handle finance and legal matters.

Bair Dosmagambetov, previously deputy construction minister, was appointed deputy commission chairman.

A republican conference will be held in Almaty in November and an international conference will take place there in December to discuss a general development plan for Kazakhstan's new capital.

According to the capital decree signed by President Nazarbayev last month, Almaty remains Kazakhstan's capital until the parliament and government move into Akmola.

Tajikistan

Rebels Agree to Negotiations 28 Oct

LD2810094395 Radio Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the report by the regional correspondent of 'Voice of Free Tajikistan,' Sayed Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition Forces, met Darko Silovic, the head of the UN representation in Tajikistan.

Professor Nuri welcomed the UN's new efforts to achieve peace in Tajikistan. Darko Silovic expressed his gratitude to the leader of the Tajik opposition and asked him to agree to a venue for holding the fifth round of Tajik negotiations. In addition, Silovic requested Nuri's consent for the creation of a UN joint commission supervisory center to implement the cease-fire agreement in Afghanistan.

Nuri gave clear answers to both of Silovic's proposals, stating that negotiations are expected at a [planned] meeting with Saparmyrat Niyazov, the president of Turmenistan in the capital of Ashkhabad on 29 October. Concerning the second proposal, Professor Nuri said that this issue would be dealt with in cooperation with the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. For his part, the leader of Tajik opposition said: "We are not against creating such a supervisory center in the area."

During the conversation with Darko Silovic, the head of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the entire Tajik opposition warned [Tajik President Imomali] Rahmonov's Dushanbe administration that, if they avoid a political settlement to the country's problems, then the opposition will never allow the government to govern

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in peace. "We will continue to establish justice through our struggle by any means," emphasized Sayed Abdullo Nuri, adding that the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan has every opportunity to implement its freedom loving aims.

Nuri concluded his conversation with Silovic by emphasizing that "the situation in Tavildara [scene of recent opposition clashes with border guards] reveals this point once again. The Dushanbe regime should draw a conclusion from this, work with the opposition to save the country, and not [follow] other paths, which they would regret."

Demonstration Supporting Opposition Begins

LD3010104995 Radio Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A report from Khorog. A demonstration in support of the Tajik armed opposition and against the local autonomous government, which began [?a few days ago], is continuing at present. The number of people taking part is growing with every passing hour. People from various parts of the Region are joining the demonstrators.

The head of the Tajik regime, [Badakhshan government head] Alimamad Niyozmamadov, the head of the [word indistinct] Region, has fled to Dushanbe and has not yet returned. The demonstrators are demanding an immediate meeting with Niyozmamadov to hear his account of why the government sent their children to fight against the opposition. The authorities had promised that, when the people's children were called up for military service, they would send the children called up for normal military service in Tajikistan. Now the people are demanding the return of the Region's head and an explanation to them.

In addition, the report said that according to some information the people themselves have started to look for Niyozmamadov.

Opposition Paper Interviews Uzbek President

LD2710103595 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forthcoming issue of the [Moscow-based Tajik opposition] newspaper CHAROGH-I RUZ has a correspondent's interview with [President of Uzbekistan] Islam Karimov. Problems of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan were considered in this discussion.

There is no other way forward for Tajikistan except through national reconciliation, Karimov said. In connection with this, he strongly criticized the official position of [Tajik President Emomali] Rakhmanov's communist regime, and said the opposition's position on this issue was acceptable and creative.

Karimov said he was very impressed by the discussion [he had on 4-5 August in Tashkent] with Haji-Akbar Turajonzoda [deputy leader of the Tajik United Opposition Forces]. On the basis of these conditions, the main issues could be solved. The opposition has a comprehensive and serious program, Karimov said.

The president of Uzbekistan announced that he would try to influence the position of Tajikistan's current leadership. I am sure that there is no way of solving the problems through the Russian military contingent and arms in Tajikistan, the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan said at the end of the discussion on the political situation in Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Urges UN To Embargo Arms Deliveries to Afghanistan

LD2510100895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — "We again call on the U.N. Security Council to embargo the import of armaments into Afghanistan," Uzbek President Islam Karimov said on Tuesday, addressing the Special Jubilee Meeting of the U.N. General Assembly here. He pointed out that this would help implement the grandiose project of the Central Asian nations' exit to the ports of the Indian Ocean through Afghanistan.

"The expansion of weapons trade, especially in our region, cannot but evoke alarm. Many countries do not even care to conceal that weapons trade is becoming one of their principal sources of hard currency incomes," Karimov pointed out.

The Uzbek President expressed particular concern in connection with the "implementation of various projects to sell nuclear technologies". "Uzbekistan comes out for the adoption of international guarantees to prevent the proliferation of mass destruction weapons," the Uzbek leader noted. He stressed: "We cannot agree to statements made here and there today that we should again return to the erstwhile military-political and bloc confrontation. The only correct way for us is not disastrous self-isolation, but integration into the world community."

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Karimov on World Response to Afghanistan Initiatives

LD2710223795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Karimov's has proposed a world embargo on arms supplies to Afghanistan and an admission of Germany and Japan to the U.N. Security Council to enlarge this U.N. body. The Uzbek leader outlined these proposals in his speech at the U.N. jubilee session in New York.

He declared in Tashkent upon his return from U.S. on Thursday that his initiative on Afghanistan stood to reason since that country today was "the key destabilizing factor" in Central Asia as a whole. There has been no let in the flow of arms into Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran, and that, in turn, has had the most negative affect on the situation in neighboring Tajikistan, Karimov explained.

On the idea to expand U.N. security Council by admitting Germany and Japan to it, Karimov spoke highly of these countries economic progress and stressed that today these countries were Uzbekistan's main trade and economic partners, carrying out vibrant investment policy in Uzbekistan.

Besides, Karimov voiced satisfaction with the outcome of his meetings with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and other state leaders. More and more people everywhere realize that Uzbekistan could and should help to coordinate efforts toward stability in Central Asia, Karimov believes.

President Karimov Criticizes Turkmen Leader

LD2810175895 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1700 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Television address by President Islam Karimov; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Karimov] [passage omitted] The five states of this region, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan — where people are suffering from the effects of the Aral Sea disaster — and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan should work together. Why do they not make a concerted effort to deal with this disaster?

Each leader is included. Excuse me if this sounds rude, but I have to say it: If you were at home and were told: Hey, friend, come to Nukus [Uzbek city, venue for an international conference on Aral Sea problems in late September]! As you are the leader, you should come and spend two hours with us. Come and put your signature to the document, because this document needs to be issued. Representatives from the United Nations, the United States, Germany, and other countries are present here. So, comrade, come and sign this document, even if you are too busy. It will take you just two hours.

If he had signed this document, they would have noticed that we had worked in a coordinated manner and had similar views on the disaster. Of course, this would be an important factor. If there is no accord on the issue, no one will come from abroad to help us. Those from abroad say: Do something about it by yourself first, after that we will come to help you. This is what I am telling you now on television.

The Turkmen leader was at home then. It would have taken him one-and-a-half hours to fly from Ashgabat to Nukus, another half an hour to attend the conference, and one-and-a-half hours to return. But he could not find three hours or so. However, we spoke in a different way at the meeting, because this was a matter of self-respect and respect for the nations living in this region. It would have been indiscreet of me to say this at the time. Now I have to explain it to our people. The Aral disaster does not only affect Uzbekistan. First of all it affects Turkmenistan. Why did you stay at home, saying: I am the ruler?

I have to say that no one can better understand the need to take action over the Aral Sea disaster than the people of Karakalpakistan, who are living through it. Those who have not experienced such a thing do not understand that. They just come, attend a meeting like spectators, and go. Those poor people give guests — no matter from what country they are — a warm welcome, trying to show them their problems. But some guests just come and go. One should come up with something. I have to say to our people that if one goes there, bringing something to leave there, then one will have a clear conscience, with a sense that one has fulfilled one's humanitarian duty. [passage omitted]

There is one more danger to our development and our future. It comes from various forces, movements, and demonstrations appearing in Russia with the aim of restoring Greater Russia within the borders of the USSR. [passage omitted: historical review, criticism of old communists who wish to restore old order]

Our neighbors are constantly boasting — and let them boast. But I want to say: Guarding your borders with the help of Russian troops is not evidence of your independence, it does not testify to your independence; it is evidence of weakness. There are rumors and suggestions circulating that the frontiers of independent states, which are also equal members of the United Nations, should be guarded and defended with the aid and assistance of Russia. Let us think: If I am an independent state, if I have declared before my own people that we are independent, if we are masters of

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our fate, and if our future is in our hands, then why should our borders be protected by foreign forces? What will the forces protecting the borders demand? Is there anything free of charge in the world? Nobody will guard you for nothing. Have you seen such fools anywhere? They will come and they will take control of the borders. [passage omitted]

Such a border guard will first of all guard his own interests. He will put obstacles in our way abroad and will decide on his own whether we should be allowed to visit or to travel somewhere or not. This is certainly the case. We should grasp this clearly and think about it correctly. Perhaps some neighboring states are weak and cannot guard their borders. But why then are you boasting? Let them admit it and say openly: I am weak, but despite this I often declare from lofty platforms that I am independent and that I am the first on this road not only among CIS countries, but in the world.

I have seen them on television, but let us not identify them for now. But if your borders are guarded by others, how can you be an independent state? Once again I should note: Perhaps it is natural if you are weak, for instance. But then say openly that you lack strength. Here is one who is going to become neutral. But if you have decided to become neutral, why should your borders be guarded by others? [passage omitted]

Why should we invite forces from outside and hand over our defense to them? Is not this question natural? [passage omitted]

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Armenia

Demirel, Ter-Petrosyan Give Different Priority to Lachin

NC2810092895 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1345 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel, who is currently attending UN General Assembly's session dedicated to 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, met with Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk group, President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari and discussed with the latter the issue of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh dispute.

Demirel, in particular, said that Turkey hopes that the problem will be resolved as soon as possible and attaches particular importance to the problem of Lachin.

At the Turkish House in New York Demirel met with Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia. During talks with President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan Demirel said that relations between the two countries would be normalized provided Armenia withdraws from occupied Azeri territories. According to Turkish President, Armenia will only benefit from this. Demirel also underlined the importance of withdrawing Armenian forces from the Lachin corridor and noted that even if a part of troops withdrew from Lachin, it would be regarded as the first demonstration of good will.

Demirel urged Ter-Petrosyan and Aliyev to make mutual concessions and find such a solution to the problem, which would provide for both liberation of occupied territories and return of around million refugees to their homes. "Winter will make both sides shake hands", Demirel said.

After the meeting Levon Ter-Petrosyan reported to journalists that Lachin is "the second priority problem". According to him, the OSCE Minsk group will continue discussions on the issue of withdrawal of troops from the Lachin corridor. Besides, he said, this issue is to be discussed at a tete-a-tete meeting between him and Aliyev.

Turkish Foreign Ministry's envoy, Ambassador Omer Akbel said that in exchange for withdrawal of troops from Lachin "Turkey can do much for the country of three million, which is in a grip of energy, economic and social crisis and is making efforts to strengthen its political independence."

Parliament Speaker Favors Restoring Peace in Caucasus

LD2810115995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 28 Oct 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, October 28 (Itar-Tass) — Prosperity of the Caucasus, the peoples of which are united in single geographic and geopolitical space, is possible only after the establishment of stable peace in the region, claimed Armenian parliament speaker Babken Ararktsyan in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass here on Saturday.

The speaker stressed that conflicts all over the world, including the Caucasus, are a stumbling block in the way of economic integration of states. The task is to settle these problems and to restore mutual confidence, the speaker continued.

"We must look for and find ways which bring closer a solution of conflicts and restore the atmosphere of mutual trust," Ararktsyan added.

According to the speaker, "if we want the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be the driving force of the alliance of countries, we should not avoid discussing burning problems and should pursue the aim of finding correct decisions and removing confrontation between Commonwealth states.

"We worked exactly in this direction at the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA), and the results are graphic," Ararktsyan stated. He noted that the 1994 Bishkek protocol on a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem was signed thanks to the IPA mediation mission. The ceasefire lasting over 16 months was based on this document. Thus, the task which various states and mediator organisations had failed to settled, was resolved.

Ararktsyan praised the initiative by speaker of the Federation Council (Russian parliament upper chamber) Vladimir Shumeyko on arranging a meeting of the speakers of the Russian Federation's parliaments and the three Transcaucasian states, which was held in St. Petersburg, the second largest Russian city, in September.

Disregard for realities and unreadiness to make compromises will not help to settle problems, claimed the Armenian speaker.

He expressed opinion that the signing of the Bishkek protocol and the subsequent ceasefire in the zone of the Karabkh conflict were preconditioned by the fact that all the warring sides — Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Armenia in the person of parliament speakers and

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then defence ministers — sat at the negotiaring table and came to agreement.

The speaker confirmed Armenia's commitment to a political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Says Karabakh, Oil Discussed in Clinton Talks

NC2810082995 Baku TURAN in English
1130 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] New York/26.10.95/ TURAN—[passage omitted] After meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton, President Geydar Aliyev met with journalists. He said that the main attention during the conversation was paid to the questions of implementation of the oil contract signed a year ago for the transportation of early oil.

Azerbaijan President said that the US oil company "MOBIL" wished to operate several oil fields of the Caspian. According to Aliyev, he principally agreed on that matter and is waiting for concrete offers from "MOBIL".

According to Aliyev, Bill Clinton promised to deal in the problem of the Armenian-Azeri conflict "more seriously and deeply." The Azerbaijan President considers that the resolution of the conflict should begin with the withdrawal of the Armenian formations from the occupied territories and the return of refugees to their native towns. Then it will be possible to restore the route and only then to discuss the matter on the security of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh. "They will be given the autonomy within the frames of the Constitution of Azerbaijan. The integrity of Azerbaijan and inviolability of its borders should remain the main principle in the resolution of this question," Aliyev noted.

Concerning the Amendment 907 of the US Congress Freedom Support Act Geydar Aliyev said that Bill Clinton admitted the amendment was not just.

"The American president said he would look for ways out from the situation," Aliyev noted.

Aliyev: Position on Caspian Sea Status 'Will Not Change'

NC2710210695 Baku TURAN in English
0918 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 26/10/95 TURAN — During a meeting with journalists on completion of his visit to New York Geydar Aliyev touched on the problem on the status of the Caspian. He once more noted that the position of Azerbaijan in that question would not change.

"Sectoral division of the sea - is a just decision. Though most do not like it [we] will not yield. Our persistence made many people change their position. For example, the president of Kazakhstan now supports us openly, though earlier he did not said so," Geydar Aliyev said.

Gasanov, Iranian Envoy Discuss Caspian Sea Issues

LD2810145095 Tehran IRNA in English
1425 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Oct. 28, IRNA — The Iranian ambassador to Baku 'Ali Reza Bikdeli discussed issues of mutual interest with the Azeri minister for foreign affairs, Gasan Gasanov, here Friday.

In the meeting, the Iranian ambassador asked the Azeri side to be quite serious about implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries.

The issues related to the Caspian Sea, as well as a political solution to the Karabakh dispute, were among other topics coming up for discussion by the two sides.

The two officials also held talks on the forthcoming general parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan and discussed outcome of the meeting held between the Azeri and Armenian presidents in New York.

Communist Party Chief Says Ban 'Political Discrimination'

NC2810072795 Baku TURAN in English
1550 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/27.10.95/TURAN—"We consider yesterday's resolution of the Supreme Court on non-admission of our party to the Parliamentary elections as political discrimination", the chairman of Azerbaijan's Communist party, Ramiz Ahmedov, told TURAN's correspondent.

The communist party complained to the Supreme Court of the republic when the Central Election Commission refused to register the lists of electors of the Communist party at the elections on the proportional system. The Central Election Commission says part of signatures in these lists are falsified.

Ahmedov says the using different ways the authorities moved the only left organization, which was a potential winner to the Parliamentary elections in the country, from the arena of the pre-election struggle. "The nation backs up and sympathizes with us. The clans and mafia, which under the democratic slogans continue robbing people, are afraid of us", Ramiz Ahmedov noted.

The leader of the Communist party noted his party will not resort to mass actions of protest. "However,

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during the plenum we will seriously discuss the current situation and take appropriate measures", Ahmedov said.

'More Than 280' Die in Baku Metro Accident

NC2910160695 Baku TURAN in English 0716 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku 29/10/95 TURAN — More than 280 people died and more than 150 were wounded during the fire in Baku's metro October 28 in the evening.

The unprecedent accident took place at 5.50 p.m. due to burning of high-votage cable in subway's tunnel. The reasons are unknown. After that the train stopped and all its systems came into disorder. The witnesses say there was a panic. However, the engine-drivers could not open the doors of the train due to disorder of the electric system.

Feizullayev Azer, the witness of the accident, says as the train moved from "Ulduz" station he saw from the window of the train the sparks coming from the cables in the tunnel. Then the train stopped with a jerk. When the smoke appeared people were suffocated and started broking the windows to go out. He says he is not sure what was the reason of the fire.

Another person, Tabil Huseinov, told Turan's correspondent that he was in the last car of the train and stood with his face to the doors. "As the train entered the tunnel I saw a flash in the place of high-voltage cables. Then there were several bright flashes, the fire reached the car, I heard windows breaking and the light was put off. People started to go out of the train.The fire already reached several cars and people were suffocated", Husinov said.

This morning more than 280 dead and 151 wounded persons were brought to the hospitals and morgues of the city, deputy senior physicians of Baku's "Firsy aid" station, Mursal Hamidov, told Turan. The majority of passengers died from suffocation and burns, he said.

The specialists say the number of dead persons can grow in the near future cause one cannot say with certainty that all persons were removed from the tunnel.

Due to the accident President Aliyev announced two-day mourning in the city. The state commission led by first vice-premier, Abbas Abbasov, was created for investigation of the reasons of the tragedy.

The special regime will be imposed in metro to ensure the safety of passengers by resolution of President Aliyev.

It the biggest tragedy in the whole history of Baku's metro. On February 9 and July 3, 1994 there two explosions in Baku's metro. According to official data, 28 persons died and 60 were wounded during these explosions.

Terrorism Ruled Out in Metro Fire

LD2910120695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 29 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 29 Oct — The total number of casualties from the fire in the Baku metro is 558. Fatalities amount to 289, including 28 children and 126 women. Two hundred and sixty-nine people have been taken to hospital, of whom 62 are in serious condition. These figures were given today by Azerbaijan Health Minister Ali Insanov at a ceremony of mourning held at the Cathedral Mosque.

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov and First Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov, who heads the investigating commission, also spoke at the ceremony.

Usubov explicity ruled out terrorism, stressing that the accident in the metro was of a purely technical nature. There have already been two similar instances of locomotive engines catching fire in the Baku metro, he said, both of them on the stretch of line between the Ulduz and Narimanov stations.

Abbas Abbasov said the republic's authorities would consider giving financial aid to the victims' families.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Meeting With World Bank Officials

LD2810195595 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The World Bank's involvement in Georgia is of crucial importance, because it will give an incentive to every investor, Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze said today at a meeting with representatives of the World Bank's Agricultural Industry Mission. [passage omitted]

The World Bank mission arrived in Georgia on 23 October. Its members have already met representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Science Academy, and the Cabinet of Ministers. Together, they have drawn up a document that is to be examined by the World Bank Directorate and then sent to World Bank donor countries. The implementation of a five-year program for the development and privatization of Georgian

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agriculture will start from January or February next year. The program, which will be funded with World Bank credit worth $32-35 million, envisages implementation of land reform, privatization of organizations belonging to the agroindustrial complex, introduction of banking and credit systems in agriculture, and further development of education and science. However, implementation of the project requires the appropriate legal basis. To create such a basis, parliament should promptly pass a law on land.

The head of state thanked the guests for their work.

At the end of the meeting our correspondent Tamar Sujashvili spoke to Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] It was a very important meeting, because it effectively mapped out a program for our cooperation with the World Bank over the next three or five years. This was preceded by a lot of hard work by the Cabinet of Ministers, by Deputy Prime Minister Bakur Gulua, [word indistinct] ministry. It is a $30-35 million program. This in itself is a significant sum, but it is more important that this cooperation starts under the auspices of the World Bank. It means, as I told our guests, giving the green light to investment from other countries, especially to private investment. If the World Bank trusts you, it means that other investors will also trust you. This will probably involve hundreds of millions of dollars. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze on Relations With Russia, Democracy, Aid

AU3010121195 Vienna PROFIL in German 30 Oct 95 p 74

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Florian Hassel in Tbilisi; date not given: "We Are Not A Police State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hassel] Mr. President, in Austria people still remember you as the foreign minister of the Soviet Union...

[Shevardnadze] You can rest assured that, if the Soviet Union is restored, I will be back in my position!

[Hassel] In your three years as Georgian head of state, you have survived three assassination attempts, the most recent one in late August. Have you never considered quitting politics and becoming the head of a nice political foundation, like Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Shevardnadze] It was only three days after the last assassination attempt that I officially announced that I would run again in the presidential elections. The last assault and earlier terrorist attacks have convinced me that my country needs me now.

[Hassel] The man behind the attack, Igor Giorgadze, who has so far headed your intelligence service, managed to flee to Moscow and is now protected by the Russians. This proves that the Russians are not at all interested in cooperating with you.

[Hassel] The fact that Giorgadze is protected by Moscow makes me sad, of course, and it makes me think. Yet, it will not impair Georgia's relations with Russia. This is exactly what the circles that currently protect Giorgadze would like to achieve — but I will not fall into their trap.

[Hassel] Why do you allow the Russians to keep military bases in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] The treaty I negotiated last year only permits the Russians to stay in Georgia when they help us to get back Abkhazia and South Ossetia....

[Hassel] ...but the Russians are not in the least interested in that, because it would mean forfeiting their pawn.

[Shevardnadze] Our parliament has so far not ratified the treaty with Russia. I repeat: Only when we regain control over our entire national territory will we permit Russia to keep its bases here. As long as this condition is not fulfilled, the new parliament will also refuse to ratify the treaty.

[Hassel] The international consortium for the production of crude oil in Azerbaijan now wants to construct a pipeline through Russia and another through Georgia and Turkey. Do you expect lots of money from that?

[Shevardnadze] Not right away — after all, they are only talking of relatively small quantities. Yet, after the first production stage, the project will involve dozens of millions of metric tons. Then our revenues will, of course, be considerable.

[Hassel] So, for the time being, the pipeline is rather a signal of hope for Georgia than a major source of income.

[Shevardnadze] I would not put it that way. After all, the consortium will invest dozens of millions of dollars in Georgia.

[Hassel] The civil war has ruined Georgia's economy. Are you satisfied with the help?

[Shevardnadze] Most help was provided by the United States, then by the EU. I am absolutely sure that this help will continue for at least another year or two. Yet, it involves primarily humanitarian aid. We need more development projects and investments. After all, we were now conceded $245 million in loans from the IMF. The World Bank is also helping us. But we are

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also a most interesting place for foreign investors. Even now the United States, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Greece, and Iran — to mention just a few — are investing in our country.

[Hassel] Your critics accuse you of having turned Georgia into a police state which you are ruling highhandedly.

[Shevardnadze] We introduced a federal system in Georgia with governors for the individual areas. This is very similar to the Austrian system of provinces and provincial governors. We have a police force of 40,000, which is not too many for a country of more than 5 million inhabitants. When I think of the equipment our police have — well, a typical police state looks quite different.

[Hassel] Why then do you appoint the governors yourself instead of having them elected democratically?

[Shevardnadze] Slowly, slowly. Give us some time. We first have to elect the president and the new parliament — then we will see what comes next. There will, of course, also be democratic elections at the local level.

Shevardnadze To Raise Abkhaz Issue at CIS Summit

LD2910145395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Oct 29 (Interfax) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze intends to raise the issue of Abkhazia's full isolation, including on the Georgian-Russian border on the Psou river, at the next CIS summit.

Shevardnadze said in Tbilisi today when visiting the Abkhaz section of an exhibition dedicated to the Day of City that "if these efforts bring no result, Georgia is capable of resolving the Abkhaz problem on its own given Russia's neutrality."

"Separatists should realize that they have committed a crime against the humankind," Shevardnadze said.

Border Troops Commander on Borders Situation

LD2710185495 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1415 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 27th [dateline as received] — "Igor Giorgadze, the former chief of the Georgian State Security Service, crossed the Georgian air border from Vaziani airport, which is not controlled by the Georgian side yet," General Valeriy Chkheidze, commander of Georgian border troops told a news conference today. According to him, Georgian law-enforcement bodies have not carried out a special investigation into this matter.

Valeriy Chkheidze dwelt on the situation in Abkhazia. He said that the Georgian-Russian border on the Psou River, as well as the ports of Sukhumi, Gagra, and Ochamchire, were under the control of the Russian border troops. By the order of Andrey Nikolayev, the commander of the Russian border troops, they had managed to lay siege to Abkhaz ports and stopped the ships Bzyb, Ritsa, Psou, sailing illegally under the Russian flag toward Turkey and Trabzon. According to the information available to Chkheidze, these ships were registered under the name of some Madam Ardzinba. It seems that this lady is a relation of the Abkhaz separatists' leader. General Chkheidze said that he had just returned from the Kodori gorge where the situation remained stable.

As for the Armenian-Georgian border, there was indeed certain excesses in the region in the past, but since the border troops of the two countries undertook to control it, the border has been protected properly.

In Chkheidze's words, in 10-12 years' time Georgia will have a well-established border infrastructure. At the moment, the border department is preparing a draft of supplying Georgian borders with technical equipment. The implementation of the draft will cost Georgia $150,000, whereas in the United States the same project costs $1.5 million.

Tbilisi Prefers Cheaper Russian Gas to Turkmenistan Gas

MK2710144295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 4

[ANI report: "Georgia Will Fully Reorient Itself to Russian Gas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi intends in the future to gamble on importing natural gas from Russia. On the basis of intergovernmental agreements reached in September 1995, Russia will supply to Georgia, from November-April 1995 [as published], 400 million cubic meters of gas in exchange for manganese, pipes, paints and varnish, tea, wine and vodka, and other products. Previously, Georgia bought the raw material in Turkmenistan at the rate of 3.6 billion cubic meters a year. The raw material from Russia will be supplied by the "Roskontrakt" company. The Georgian receiver of the gas will be a nongovernmental commercial structure set up last week in line with a decree of the republic's head, Eduard Shevardnadze. It has been learned from a source in the Georgian Government that Russian gas could cost $70 per 1,000 cubic meters (including its delivery to the

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border), that is to say $10 cheaper than Turkmenistan's gas.

Vessels Banned From Sailing Under Russian Colors

LD2710205095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, October 27 (Itar-Tass) — Department chief of Georgian border guards, Major-General Valeriy Chkheidze, said at a news conference today that vessels assigned to the Sukhumi sea port must be registered at Georgian naval departments. "Otherwise, they will be barred from sailing in the Black sea," the general said.

According to Chkheidze, in future, Russian border guards will not allow vessels assigned to the Sukhumi sea port to sail under Russian colours.

The general said that some time ago, a group of Abkhazian representatives, including a woman reportedly a relative of Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba, made an illegal deal, registering vessels assigned to the Sukhumi sea port at Russian structures, which allowed these vessels to sail in the Black Sea under Russian colours over the past 1.5 years.

Now that a new regulation came into effect, Georgian vessels sailing in the Black Sea are not allowed to hoist Russian flags.

Tskhinvali Migrants Provoking 'Unrest' in North Ossetia

AU2910134495 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 12-13 Oct 95 p 1, 12

[Report by Turman Turmanidze: "Ludvig Chibirov: 'Are Not Gamsakhurdia's Fateful Words Proving To Be True?'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On account of the serious socioeconomic and crime situation that has taken shape in the Tskhinvali region, on which REZONANSI has been frequently reporting, there has recently been a sharp increase in the number of people migrating from this region to the Autonomous Republic of North Ossetia [ARNO]. Ludvig Chibirov, the leader of the self-proclaimed authorities in the Tskhinvali region, stated at the first session of the newly elected North Ossetian Parliament: "The standard of living in the region is declining catastrophically. There is the fear of famine and utter poverty. Fifty percent of young people have jobs. Those who are working have not been paid since the beginning of the year, which on average amounts to 25,000-30,000 rubles. To escape this situation, people are leaving the region and going to live in North Ossetia." This year, 654 people have been removed from the register [of residents] in the Tskhinvali region. This figure is rising daily and is expected to reach 3,000 by the end of the year. To this figure one can add those travelling to the north in search of temporary work, which brings the overall figure to over 100,000. As Chibirov pointed out: "When I look at the ever increasing flow of people northward, I cannot help thinking: Are not Gamsakhurdia's [ex-president] fateful words about the creation of a single Ossetia within the administrative and territorial borders of North Ossetia proving to be true?"

Representatives of the intelligentsia predominate among the migrants, as a result of which the following situation has arisen in the Tskhinvali region: The famous dance ensemble "Simdi" has disbanded, newspapers have no journalists and editors, the hospitals no longer have any doctors, and teaching has stopped in virtually all educational institutions. Crimes are not being investigated due to a shortage of police officers and so forth. Against the background of poverty and the collapse of the social services, epidemics have broken out. In Kvaisa, people (particularly children) are suffering on a massive scale from inflammation of the lymph glands. A group of doctors from Russia has been sent there but they have been unable to fathom the causes and so nothing can be done for the sufferers. In addition, tuberculosis is spreading on a massive scale. The press in Vladikavkaz is pointing out that this disease has taken on epidemic proportions among refugees from the south. People are dissatisfied in Vladikavkaz. It does not take much guesswork to figure out that this huge flow of refugees from the south has imposed a heavy burden on the economy that is already in an unenviable state in the ARNO. This is being felt, first and foremost, by the population of the autonomous republic. As a result, there is growing resentment daily on the part of local Ossetians toward the migrants from Georgia (and, correspondingly, vice versa). A little while ago, Ossetian writers from the Tskhinvali region proposed to the North Ossetian Writers Union that they form a single union, but this idea was rejected. It was recently the 70th anniversary of the formation of the North Ossetian Writers' Union, but no writers from Tskhinvali were invited to the celebrations, which aroused the indignation of the latter and the self-proclaimed authorities in the region.

They Are Dissatisfied in Vladikavkaz

Such a trend can also be observed in all other cultural spheres. The excessive ambition of Ossetians from Tskhinvali and their policy of resolving their own economic problems at someone else's expense are arousing the anger of people in Vladikavkaz. The

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increase in tension can also be felt in the Ossetian press. Bobo Dzutsev writes in the 26 June edition of EKHO [ECHO]: "There was a Tskhinvalian with us who killed his comrade in arms to get his weapon and then exchanged this for drugs. We shot him and threw his body to the dogs." In the 5 July edition of SEVERNAYA OSETIYA [NORTH OSSETIA], a nominated candidate writes: "I am convinced that a fratricidal conflict is unfolding between the peoples of the north and south. The crimes that are being committed by the refugees and that unbearable situation that has taken shape in our markets because of them is arousing growing resentment on the part of the local population. The latest incident that occurred in the central market shows us that preventive measures need to be taken." One often hears in speeches delivered on television in Vladikavkaz that the patriots have remained in the south while the filth has been hurrying to the north.

Confrontations Between Ossetians

Unrest reached its peak this summer following the armed confrontations that occurred between Ossetians during the religious celebrations in Vladikavkaz. In this connection, the ARNO Ministry of Internal Affairs press service stated: "Four drunken South Ossetians (members of the special purpose militia detachment) started to quarrel and fired shots from their automatic weapons. The local police arrested them and were barely able to protect them from the justified wrath of the inhabitants of the village of Kadragoni who demanded they be handed over to them." Following this, a large rally was held outside the Alagiri rayon (ARNO) administration building, demanding the expulsion of Tskhinvali Ossetians from the rayon. The people began to gather signatures for a petition to be submitted to the authorities demanding that measures be taken against so-called South Ossetia.

Alarmed by the situation that has taken shape, Chibirov, head of the so-called authorities in Tskhinvali rayon, passionately told the deputies at the ARNO Parliament session that they had one motherland and should be together and so forth.

"In spite of the different types of borders existing today, we have one motherland — Ossetia, Iristoni — and, as such, we have common problems. We should think about what kind of union it is necessary to establish between North and South Ossetia so that we can preserve the prospects for the unification of the Ossetian people," stated Chibirov.

Pro-Gamsakhurdia Rally 'Brutally Broken Up'

LD2810155595 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 28 Oct — Giorgi Kervalishvili, president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights, has told an Iberia correspondent that Tbilisi police and the special purpose militia detachment have brutally broken up a rally which the Roundtable Organization [set up on the basis of the Roundtable faction in the former Supreme Council, which supported former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia] was planning to hold outside Kolkhuri Koshki [Gamsakhurdia's family house in Tbilisi] at 1300 on 28 October. Forty people were arrested, including Zaza Davitaia, vice president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights, and Tengiz Kikacheishvili, deputy speaker of the Roundtable organization.

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Estonia

Defense Ministry Seeks Bigger Peacekeeping Role in Bosnia

LD2710150095 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonia is prepared to participate more vigorously than before in UN peacekeeping missions under NATO command. This is what Raul Opik, head of the Defense Ministry's office on planning peacekeeping, told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE.

According to Opik, Estonia is ready to take part in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia as well as in the rear services for the rapid reaction forces because Estonia is politically ready for this. Opik said the more vigorous participation of Estonian defense forces' voluntary units in the UN peacekeeping missions is supported by Defense Minister Andrus Oovel and Defense Forces Commander Aleksander Einseln. Yesterday the Riigikogu State Defense Commission also reported its support.

The Foreign Ministry must notify the NATO commanders on operations in Bosnia of Estonia's readiness. If NATO accepts this a unit must be formed.

President Visits Mexico, Seeks Market Possibilites

LD2910142695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 29 Oct 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Kravchenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico, 29 October — Estonian President Lennart Meri told a news conference on 28 October that Estonia, which is preparing to become a member of the European Union (EU), and which has already reached an agreement on free trade with West European countries, can become another bridge connecting Mexico and the EU.

The Estonian leader, on an official visit to Mexico expressed hope that Mexico, which is participating in the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), could also be a bridge between the relations between Estonia and the American markets.

Answering a question of ITAR-TASS on the future of relations between Estonia and the CIS states, Lennart Meri said that "Estonia is very interested in developing traditional cultural and economic relations with Russia." Having noted that his country is aiming at reaching a full mutual understanding with its neighbours, the president at the same time categorically denied that problems of ethnic minorities exist in Estonia. He said that "the only remaining problem is Russian citizens who are trying to cross the bilateral border because Estonia has reached a higher living standard and the human rights are better protected there."

Vahi Confirms Increased Powers of Foreign Minister

LD2710165995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1205 GMT on 27 October broadcasts a live 40-minute studio discussion. [Prime Minister] Tiit Vahi, who was authorized by parliament on 26 October to form a new government, answered questions about the new government coalition and new ministers. When asked whether it was a specific demand from the new coalition partner, the Reform Party [whose chairman, Siim Kallas, has been nominated foreign minister in the new government], that the foreign minister should be deputy prime minister and stand in for the prime minister in his absence, Vahi said that it had followed as "a logical proposal" from the Reform Party, to which his side could see no objection. When asked to confirm that henceforth the foreign minister is second in importance in the Estonian Government, Vahi said: "Well yes, this is how it is in many countries and this is how it is also now seen in Estonia."

Minister Proposes New Way To Settle Russian Border Issue

WS2710142695 Tallinn BNS in English 1613 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct 26, BNS — Estonia's acting European affairs minister Endel Lippmaa has suggested a special parliament declaration on the Estonian-Russian border as a way to settle the border problem.

As the other alternative, he named speedy conclusion of a border agreement between the two countries.

Lippmaa said the undefined status of the Estonian-Russian borderline hampered the implementation of Estonia's association agreement with the European Union and this Baltic country's movement toward full membership of the European Union and NATO. The border problem also prevents the ratification of the bilateral agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, he said.

A unilateral declaration can take the place of a border agreement with Russia, because Moscow has already given the temporary control line the status of state border, Lippmaa claimed. "We have no time for endless dreams of how Russia is going to meet us half-way. Russia has clearly declared it has no intention to meet us half-way over anything," he said.

The troop withdrawal accord cannot be ratified without a new definition of the Estonian-Russian border, because

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it would contradict the Estonian constitution, the minister stated.

The constitution fixes the Tartu Peace Treaty of 1920 and other interstate border agreements as the basis of Estonia's eastern border, but Russia based the pullout of its troops on the borders as they stood when Estonia was a Soviet republic.

"The Estonian-Russian control line should be recognized as the state border either through a border agreement or through a unilateral act," Lippmaa stressed. "The parliament would be guilty of a grave violation of the constitution, should it ratify the troop withdrawal agreement without changing the borderline."

The minister added that ratification of the troop withdrawal agreement without concluding a border agreement with Russia would under the constitution invalidate President Lennart Meri's signatures on treaties already ratified and proclaimed by Russia.

Lippmaa claimed the pact on the withdrawal of Russian troops is the only one of the bilateral accords signed in July 1994 that needs to be ratified.

The agreement on social guarantees for Russian retired officers does not need ratification, he said. "The accord on military retirees only says the required internal procedures have to be observed, the text of the accord does not stipulate ratification," he noted. "It would be senseless and harmful to have it ratified."

The Estonian parliament three weeks ago suspended the discussion of the Estonian-Russian agreements signed in July 1994 in Moscow by both countries' presidents, because the covering letters to the ratification bills were incomplete. The agreements have been ratified by both houses of the Russian parliament.

Latvia

Riga Submits Official Application To Join EU

LD2710163295 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Maris Riekstins, secretary of state at the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today submitted Latvia's official application to join the European Union to the secretary of state at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Spain is currently the presiding state in the European Union. On 13 October the application to join the European Union was signed by [President] Guntis Ulmanis and [Prime Minister] Maris Gailis. A day later, [?13] representatives of the parties elected to the sixth saeima signed a declaration on Latvia's entry into the European Union. In June this year, Latvia, like Lithuania and Estonia, signed an agreement on associate membership of the European Union. However, Latvia is the first of the Baltic countries to officially submit a request for full membership, and has become the fourth formal applicant for admission to this union, after Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. Estonia is due to submit its application for admission to the European Union in November. The Lithuanian prime minister has recently stated that Lithuania sees nothing to be [?condemned] in Latvia's action in being the first of the Baltic countries to submit an application to join the European Union. According to him, it is difficult for Lithuania to comment on Latvia's step. Latvia was compelled to take the decision sooner because of the political situation in the country. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Views Sea Border Dispute With Lithuania

WS3010094595 Tallinn BNS in English 1702 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Oct 28, BNS — Latvian Prime Minister Maris Gailis is convinced that Latvia and Lithuania will resolve the sea border dispute in the near future.

Gailis said Friday in a TV interview that the problem can be resolved soon even by making a compromise with Lithuania.

Speaking about possible oil deposits in the Baltic Sea, Gailis said that 95 percent of them are located in Latvia's economic zone.

The agreement Latvia plans to sign with AMOCO/OPAB on Oct.31 says that it takes effect only after the border dispute with Lithuania is resolved, noted Gailis.

Gailis has promised his Lithuanian counterpart Adolfas Slezevicius that the agreement will not be signed until Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis returns from the United States where he attended a U.N. session and met also with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Ulmanis returned to Latvia on Oct. 26.

In addition, a copy of a part of the agreement has been sent to Slezevicius so that he saw "there are no problems in the accord," said Gailis.

As reported, Slezevicius has said Lithuania intends to propose Latvia to invite an arbitrator from some third country to resolve the territorial dispute on the border in the Baltic Sea.

Slezevicius told journalists that experts would meet again to clarify whether or not the interests of either of the two sides have been violated. The Lithuanian premier admitted that the negotiations would not be

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easy, and that the change of governments in Latvia would make the matter even more complicated.

Latvia and Lithuania had talks on the border issue on May 20, during which the state and government leaders signed a memorandum saying that the economic zone sea border will be a centre-line between both countries' proposed variants.

The territorial sea border has been determined according to the 1958 Convention on Territorial Sea.

The memorandum also says that no cooperation in using sea wealth can be started with the third countries before the Latvian- Lithuanian sea border is delimited.

Oil Thieves Cause Pipeline Rupture

LD2710214895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VENTSPILS, Oct 27 (PIA-Interfax) — A rupture Friday in the pipeline connecting Central Russia with Ventspils, an oil terminal on the Latvian Baltic coast, has led to a serious ecological disaster, officials at the Latvian State Environment Protection Inspectorate told Interfax's Petroleum Information Agency.

Over 100 tonnes of diesel fuel poured out of the pipeline as a result of a man-induced rupture about 12 kilometers east of Ventspils, "causing major harm to the environment."

According to the Inspectorate, part of the oil products got into a Venta river tributary. Ventspils environment protection and civil defense services were used to tackle the consequences of the accident. The accident was localized by midday Friday, the spilt oil products are being collected.

Bronislav Salitis, head of the Environment Protection Inspectorate attached to the Latvian Environment Protection and Regional Development Ministry, said that he had asked the government to immediately return to the practice of a decade ago when inspectors regularly checked the pipelines. Latvian pipelines were left without any supervision and have become an easy target for petroleum thieves who damage the pipelines, he said.

Lithuania

President on NATO Expansion, Government Resignation Possibility

LD2610115295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas believes that powerful countries should be quicker in reaching agreement on NATO expansion.

In an interview with Voice of America, given immediately after the UN 50th anniversary celebrations in New York, Algirdas Brazauskas commented on the meeting between American and Russian Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin. The Lithuanian president unfavorably assessed the fact that nothing concrete was said about NATO expansion after the meeting. Decisions and suggestions should be more clearly cut, and, certainly, Russia should be involved in the building of the joint security structure in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, which includes Lithuania as well, Brazauskas said.

The delegation headed by Brazauskas, is coming home from New York right before the congress of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP; the congress is scheduled to start 28 October]. In his interview with Voice of America, Brazauskas described the cabinet headed by LDDP leader Adolfas Slezevicius as normal in Lithuania's current circumstances. According to the president, the criticism faced by the government is not a reason for cabinets to be changed as often as one changes one's shirts. Brazauskas said he did not support the political forces that were seeking the government's resignation. The president maintained, however, that he would take categorical measures should well-founded accusations be presented to one or another member of the cabinet.

Brazauskas, who headed the Lithuanian delegation at the celebrations dedicated to the anniversary of the United Nations, described this anniversary as an event of worldwide importance. The president praised the eagerness by leaders of small and large countries to strengthen peace in the world.

President Brazauskas is to return to Vilnius this afternoon.

Defense Minister on Russia, Reforms in Military

WS2710152395 Tallinn BNS in English 1311 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, October 27, BNS — Russia must understand that if its smaller neighbors are not secure, there will be no stability in Russia either, said Linas Linkevicius, Lithuanian minister of defense, at an international Baltic security seminar on Friday [27 October]. However, this stability will not be achieved unless Russia receives the respect due to a great power, he believes.

Speaking on reforms in Lithuania's defense ministry, the minister noted that the creation of fully civilian control system over the army is currently a priority for the country. The demand has also been made of applicants seeking NATO membership, he said.

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Linkevicius characterized Lithuania as an especially active participant in the Partnership for Peace program and he enumerated the many events of the program in which Lithuania had participated. The number of Partnership exercises in which Lithuania will participate will double next year.

Linkevicius complained that, when offering support, Western countries frequently do not consult among themselves and offer the same items. More coordination would help economize funds, Linkevicius believes.

Slezevicius Discusses NATO, EU, Relations With Russia

LD2810174395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Oct 28 (Interfax) — The Lithuanian Government will do its best in order to speed up the country's rapprochement with NATO, Lithuanian Prime Minister, Chairman of the ruling Democratic Party of Labor Adolfas Slezevicius said.

Slezevicius delivered a report at the congress of the Democratic Party of Labor which opened in Vilnius today.

Slezevicius said he saw the signing of the treaty on Lithuania's associated membership in the European Union as the most important event in the country's foreign policy during the three years of the party's rule.

"The association with the EU gives Lithuania certain security guarantees," Slezevicius said. "However, this does not cancel the necessity for integrating with the North Atlantic alliance," he said.

"Much was done in this period for normalizing relations with Russia," Slezevicius said. However, he admitted that still there were problems in relations between the two countries. He said Russia was delaying the repayment of deposited savings of Lithuanian residents, the return of "Lithuania's buildings in Paris and Rome, historic treasuries and archives." He said there were difficulties with demarcating the state border with Russia's Kaliningrad region.

Slezevicius said one of the key tasks of the congress was to develop preparations for the parliamentary elections planned for the fall of 1996.

"The election campaign has already begun in Lithuania," Slezevicius said. He said this was proved by attacks on the Democratic Party of Labor and the government launched by the opposition's political forces.

The congress will complete its work late on Saturday evening.

Deputies Launch No-Confidence Motion in Government

LD2910184495 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1645 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Lithuania, 45 members of the Lithuanian Seimas signed a motion of no-confidence in their government.

According to Estonian Telegraph Agency, the reason for this motion is the wrong economic and social policy of the government. Among other things, the deputies accuse the government of adopting 50 laws that facilitate the corruption boom and artificially devalue the national currency of Lithuania. In the opinion of the deputies, these laws shift the burden of the repayment of foreign debts to the shoulders of taxpayers and impoverished farmers.

The statement emphasizes that further chaotic steps by the government could endanger the constitutional system of a democratic state.

The statement, accompanied with the arguments and the list of the unsatisfactory laws, will be submitted to the Lithuanian Seimas on Tuesday [31 October], Gediminas Vagnorius, the chairman of the Homeland Union, said.

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